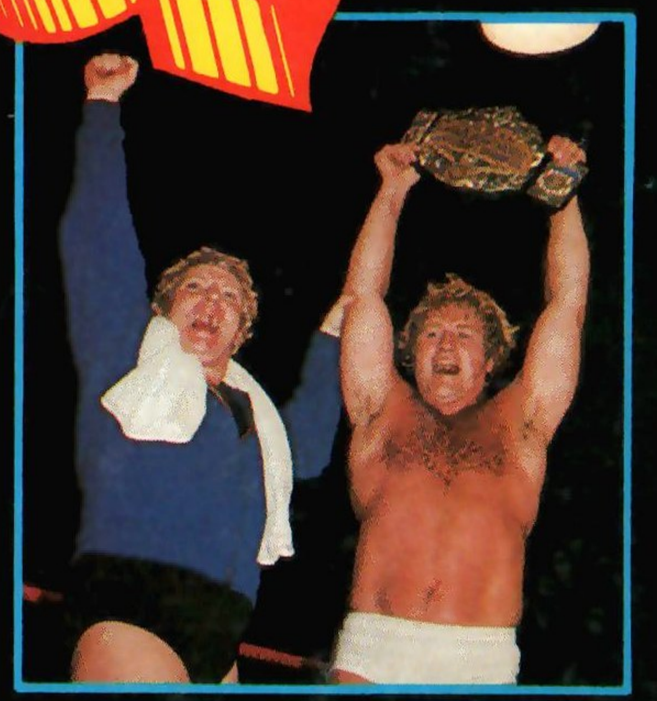
VICTORY SPORTS SERIES

THE BEST OF THE Wrestler

Summer 1983
47930 $1.50

LETTERS TO LARRY ZBYSZKO
"What You Did Is Beyond Forgiving!"



HOW ANDRE THE GIANT REUNITED BOCKWINKEL AND HEENAN

0 32

When I planned to

retire before

this is the business that made it

Starting with borrowed money, Duraclean gave me the opportunity for financial security... In eight years I sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

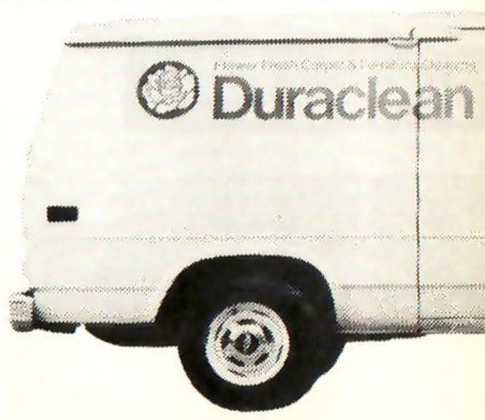
"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

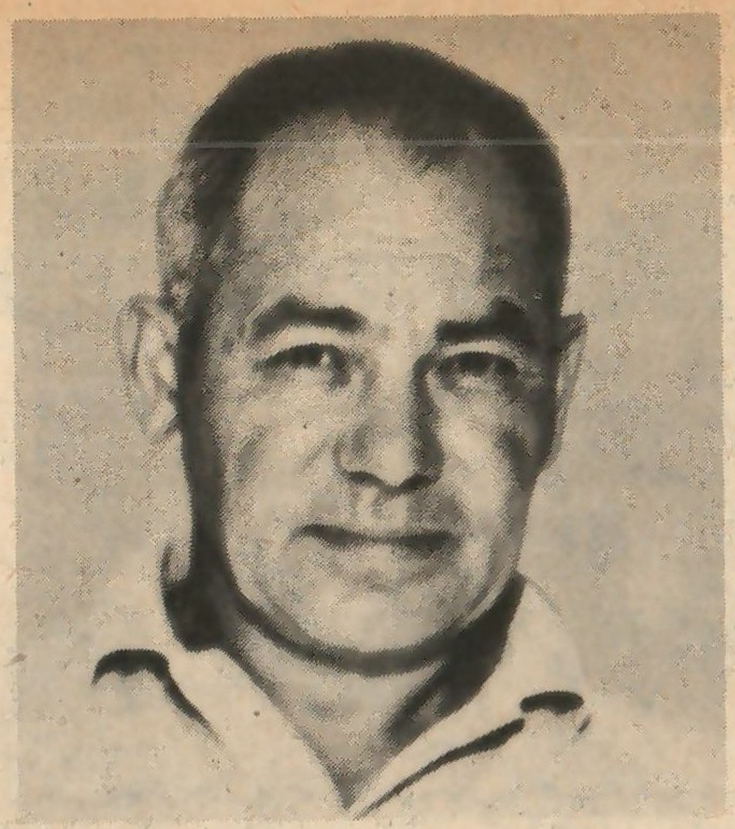
"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, only $3488 starts a Duraclean dealership. Another option is a $11,588 full cash investment, and if you qualify, Duraclean can work out financing for half this amount). I could work it as a one-man business to start, and operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead, no salaries to pay. Equipment would fit in my car trunk. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). Best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea



fifty possible.



A true story by John B. Haikey

of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

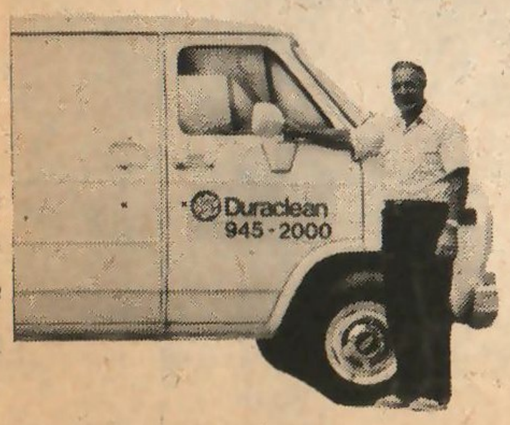
"What is this wonderful business? It's Duraclean. And what is Duraclean? It's an improved, space-age process for cleaning upholstered furniture, rugs and tacked down carpets. It not only cleans but it enlivens and sparkles up the colors. It does not wear down the fiber or drive dirt into the base of the rug as machine scrubbing does. Instead it *lifts out* the dirt by means of an absorbent dry foam.

"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture fresh and clean.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

Would you like to taste the freedom and independence enjoyed by Mr. Haikey? You can. Let us send you the facts. Mail the coupon, and you'll receive all the details, absolutely without obligation. No salesman will ever call on you. When you receive our illustrated booklet, you'll learn how we show you STEP BY STEP how to get customers; and how to have your customers get you more customers from their recommendations. This is an opportunity for a career you will enjoy far more than a routine job. You make many friends who appreciate your quality services.

With no obligation, we'll mail you a 32-page booklet explaining the business. Then you, and you alone, in the privacy of your home, can decide. Don't delay. Get the facts before your location is taken by someone else. Mail the coupon, now.



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Jerry Burns, Florida

"I'd had absolutely no business experience. In just one week, Duraclean gave me the training, the superior services and business know-how to make good! Today, I'm the enthusiastic owner of a successful business."
Bob Greenwalt, Illinois

"What I enjoy most is the freedom I have from 8 to 5 routine work. It's a great feeling to be independent, to be proud of my company and to know my service is the very best there is."
Lois Berger, Michigan

"In Duraclean you have a complete organization. For over 50 years, they've been in business. A great history of success. If you're having problems, just telephone and they will help you . . . an unusually good, caring organization."
Jim McNaughton, Canada

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Address _____

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THE BEST OF THE Wrestler

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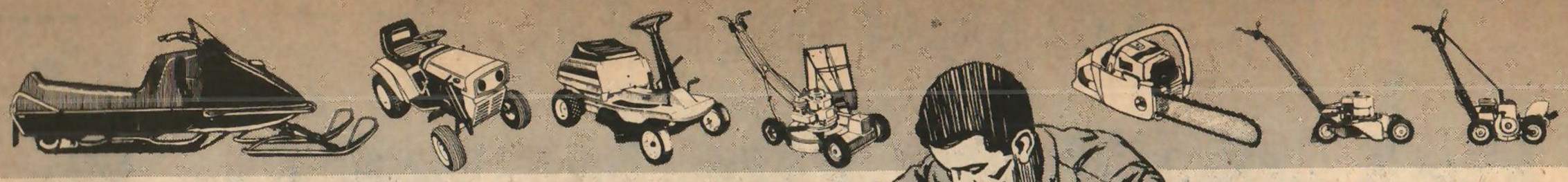
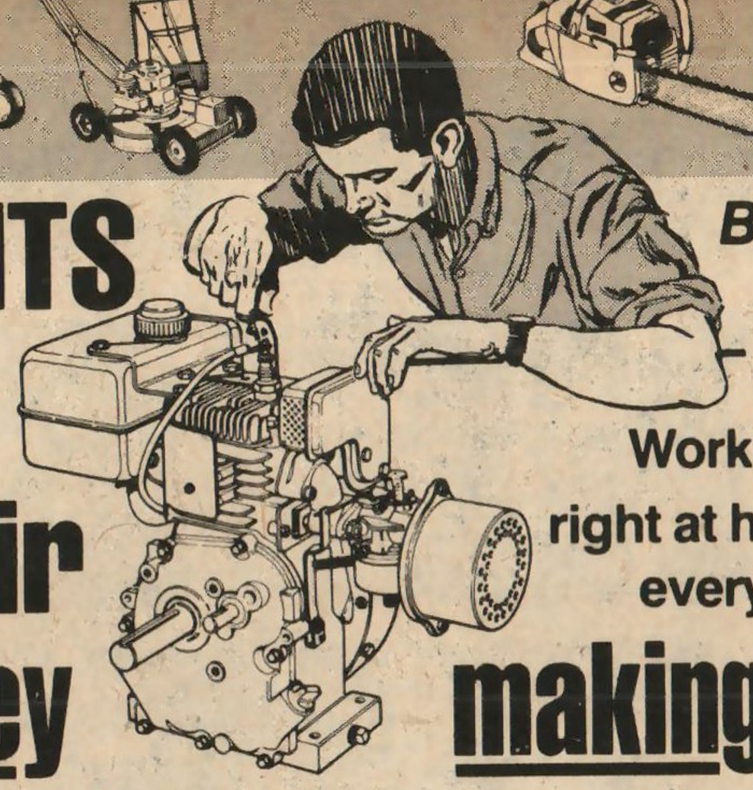


Get in on the PROFITS in SMALL ENGINE service and repair



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In just a short time, you can be ready to join one of the fastest growing industries in America...an industry where qualified men are making from $10.00 to $15.00 per hour...and that's just for labor. Parts, engines and accessories add even more to the profits.

Because the small engine industry has grown so quickly, an acute shortage of qualified Small Engine Professionals exists throughout the country. In fact, it's not unusual for a good small engine man to be three to four weeks behind in the summer and at least a week behind in the winter. When you see how many small engines are in use today, it's easy to understand why qualified men command such high prices—as much as $17.50 for a simple tune-up that takes less than an hour!

65-million small engines are in service today!

That's right — there are over sixty-five million 2-cycle and 4-cycle small engines in service across the U.S.A. That's the official count from the Engine Service Assn., and new engines are being built at a rate of one-million per month! With fully accredited and approved Foley-Belsaw training, you can soon have the skill and knowledge to make top money servicing these engines. Homeowners and businessmen will seek you out and pay you well to service and repair their lawnmowers, tillers, edgers, power rakes, garden tractors, chain saws, mini-bikes, go-carts, snowmobiles, generators, snowblowers, paint sprayers . . . the list is almost endless.

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You don't need to be a 'born mechanic' or have prior experience. If you can read, you can master this profitable trade right at home, in your sparetime, without missing a single paycheck. Lessons are fully illustrated—so clear you can't go wrong.

You receive trade secrets and business plans.

We guide you every step of the way, including tested and proven instructions on how to get business, what to charge, how to get free advertising, where to get supplies wholesale...all the "tricks of the trade"...all the inside facts you need to assure success right from the start.

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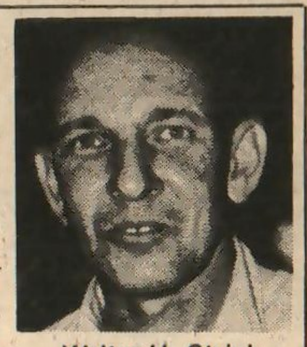
"I've had about 8 years experience repairing small engines . . . but repairs were only minor . . . until I started the Foley-Belsaw Course."



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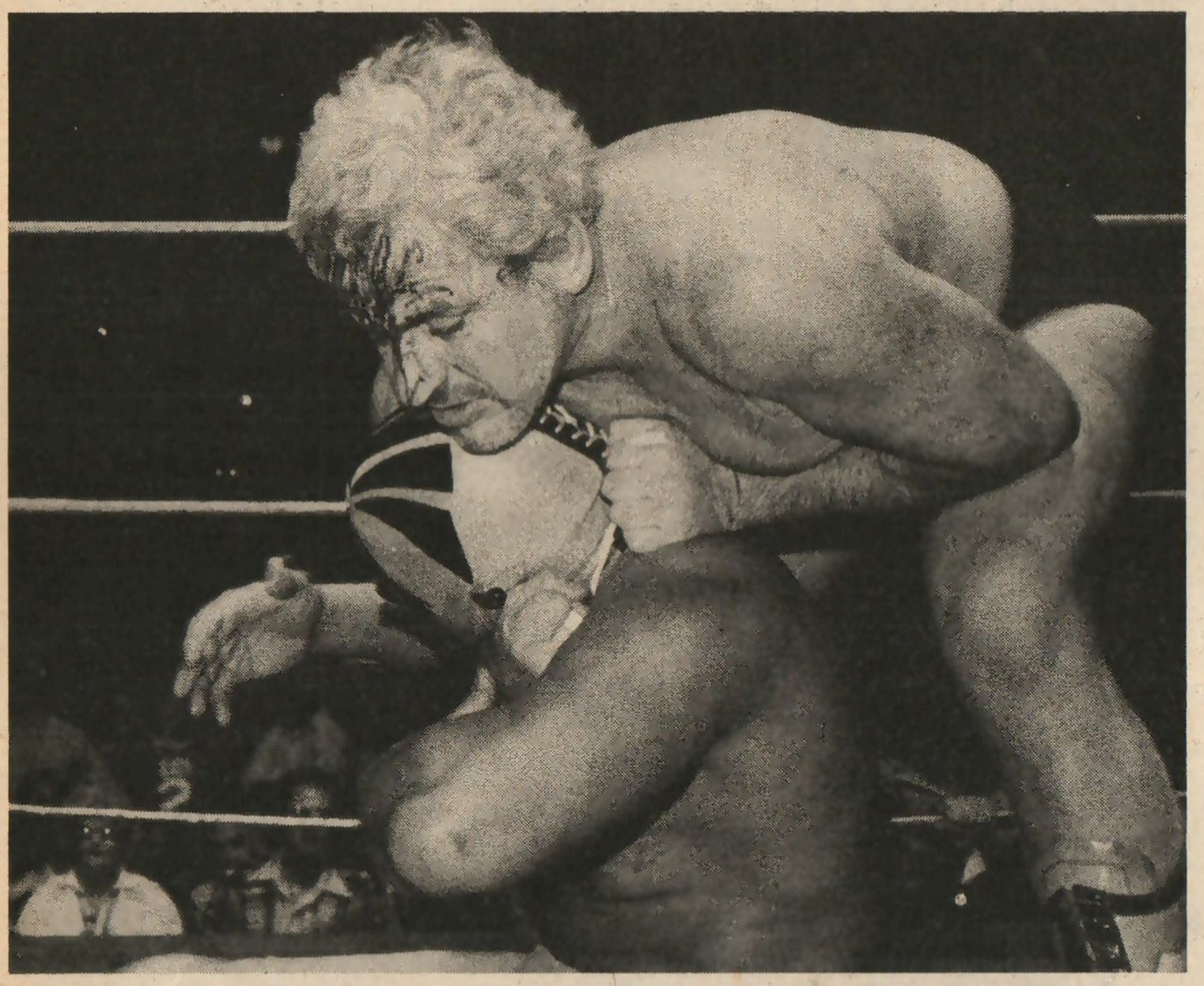
INTRODUCTION

THE BEST OF THE WRESTLER: THE BEST OF THE BEST!



There was a lot at stake when Mil Mascaras wrestled against The Sheik. The winner, it was believed at the time, would receive a title match with WWF chanmpion Bob Backlund.

NOW THAT THE winter is over and the wrestling scene is heating up, it is time to take a look back at some of the most requested stories ever printed in the most respected wrestling magazine ever, *The Wrestler*.

Our collection of great stroies begins with **The Sheik vs. Mil Mascaras: Prelude to Backlund?** from *The Wrestler*/December 1979. According to a hot rumor at the time, the winner of the match would receive a title shot against WWF champion Bob Backlund.

The biggest wrestling story of 1980 was Larry Zbyszko's attack on his former mentor Bruno Sammartino. In **Letters To Larry Zbyszko** (June 1980), fans expressed their outrage to Zbyszko personally.

"I Broke II's Neck Once . . . I'll Break It Again!" was a pledge of bruatality made by Toru Tanaka in our July 1980 issue. Did the inscrutable Tanaka carry out his vow? Read the story and see.

Every now and then, the editors of *The Wrestler* have a bad idea. In mid-1980, we decided to give a column to WWF manager Lou Albano. The results were outrageous, of course, and Albano was fired after three issues. **Lou Albano Talks Wrestling** (August 1980) is an example of wrestling journalism at its worst, a good idea that went haywire.

St. Louis has been the home for some of the greatest matches in wrestling history. **Brisco & Kiniski vs. The Funks: Jack Brisco's Night Of Greatness—And Shame** (October 1976) depicted another one of those sensational St. Louis battles. In 1979, the wrestling world was stunned when AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel fired his manager, Bobby Heenan. By early-1980, however, the two men had signed another contract. **How Andre The Giant Reunited Bockwinkel And Heenan** (April 1980) gave our readers the untold story behind Bockwinkel and Heenan's re-signing.

Victor Rivera had been one of

(Continued on page 52)

BIG MUSCLES? In 7 days

my method of DYNAMIC-TENSION starts giving you results you can *feel* and your friends will *notice*. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed. Lose "pot belly." Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body – or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition – or how old or young you are – the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a REAL man! Believe me, I know – because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.

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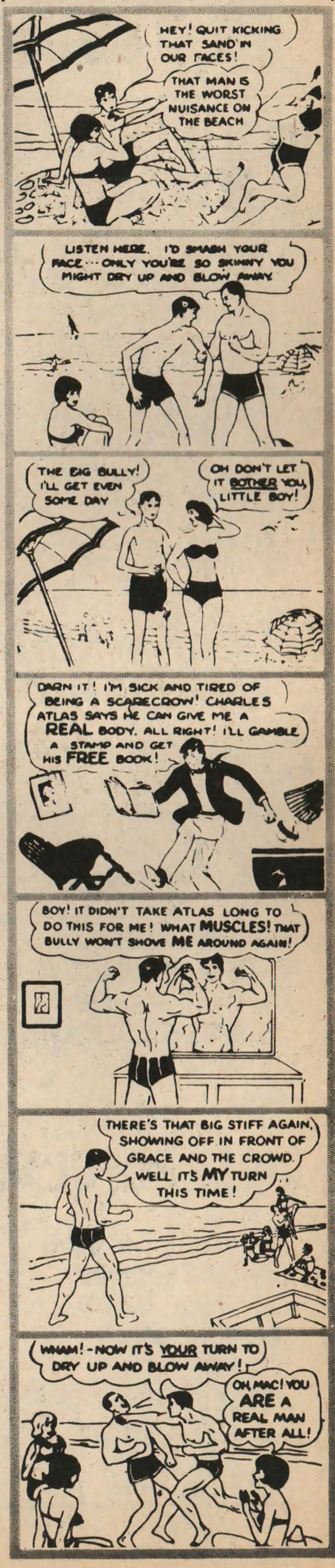


OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

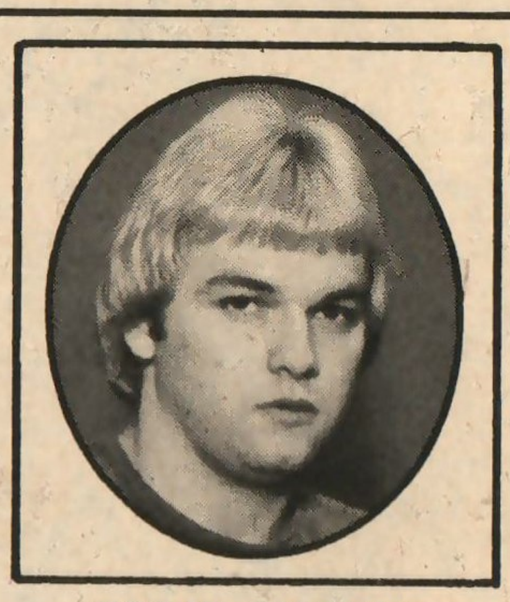
Champion: BOB BACKLUND
1—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
2—IVAN KOLOFF
3—JIMMY SNUKA
4—JOHN STUDD
5—PEDRO MORALES
6—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
7—ROCKY JOHNSON
8—RAY STEVENS
9—EDDIE GILBERT
10—MIKE SHARPE

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

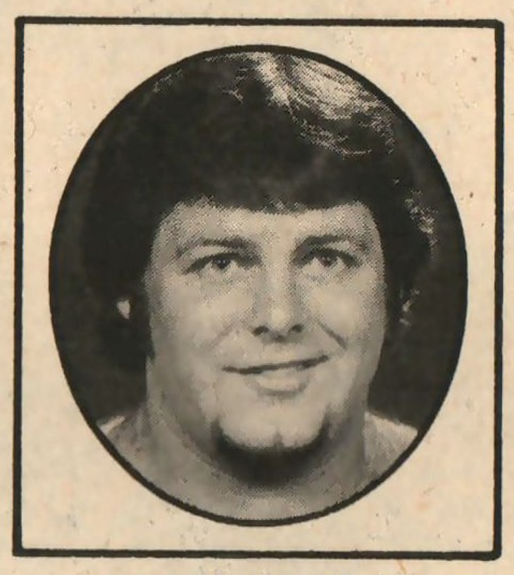
Champion: NICK BOCKWINKEL
1—RICK MARTEL
2—HULK HOGAN
3—JERRY LAWLER
4—WAHOO McDANIEL
5—KEN PATERA
6—JESSE VENTURA
7—MAD DOG VACHON
8—TULLY BLANCHARD
9—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
10—GREG GAGNE

MOST POPULAR

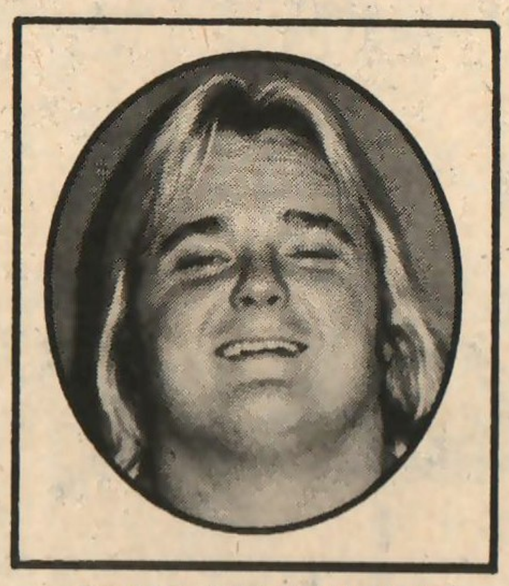
1—ANDRE THE GIANT
2—DUSTY RHODES
3—JIMMY SNUKA
4—HULK HOGAN
5—RICK MARTEL
6—BOB BACKLUND
7—JUNKYARD DOG
8—JACK BRISCO
9—TOMMY RICH
10—KERRY VON ERICH



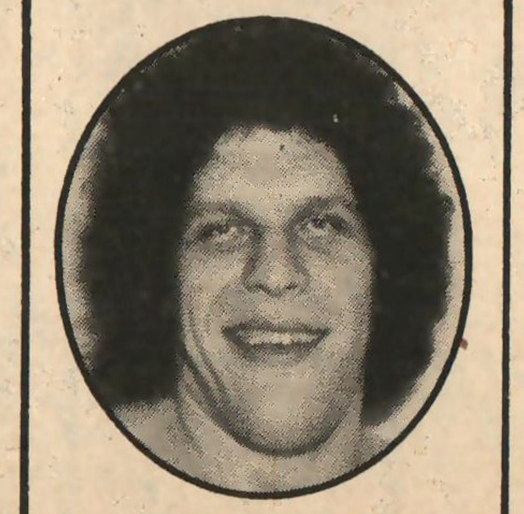
EDDIE GILBERT



JERRY LAWLER



GREG VALENTINE



ANDRE THE GIANT

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: RIC FLAIR
1—GREG VALENTINE
2—PAUL ORNDORFF
3—MIKE GRAHAM
4—KERRY VON ERICH
5—DORY FUNK JR.
6—BOB ARMSTRONG
7—BARRY WINDHAM
8—HARLEY RACE
9—TOMMY RICH
10—DAVID VON ERICH

TAG TEAMS

1—SGT. SLAUGHTER & DON KERNODLE
2—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
3—JAY & JULES STRONGBOW
4—THE SAMOANS
5—THE MOONDOGS
6—THE FABULOUS KANGAROOS
7—THE FREEBIRDS
8—THE MASKED GRAPPLERS
9—TED DiBIASE & MATT BORNE
10—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

MOST HATED

1—GREG VALENTINE
2—KEVIN SULLIVAN
3—RIC FLAIR
4—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
5—NICK BOCKWINKEL
6—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
7—BUZZ SAWYER
8—THE GREAT KABUKI
9—BOB ARMSTRONG
10—TULLY BLANCHARD

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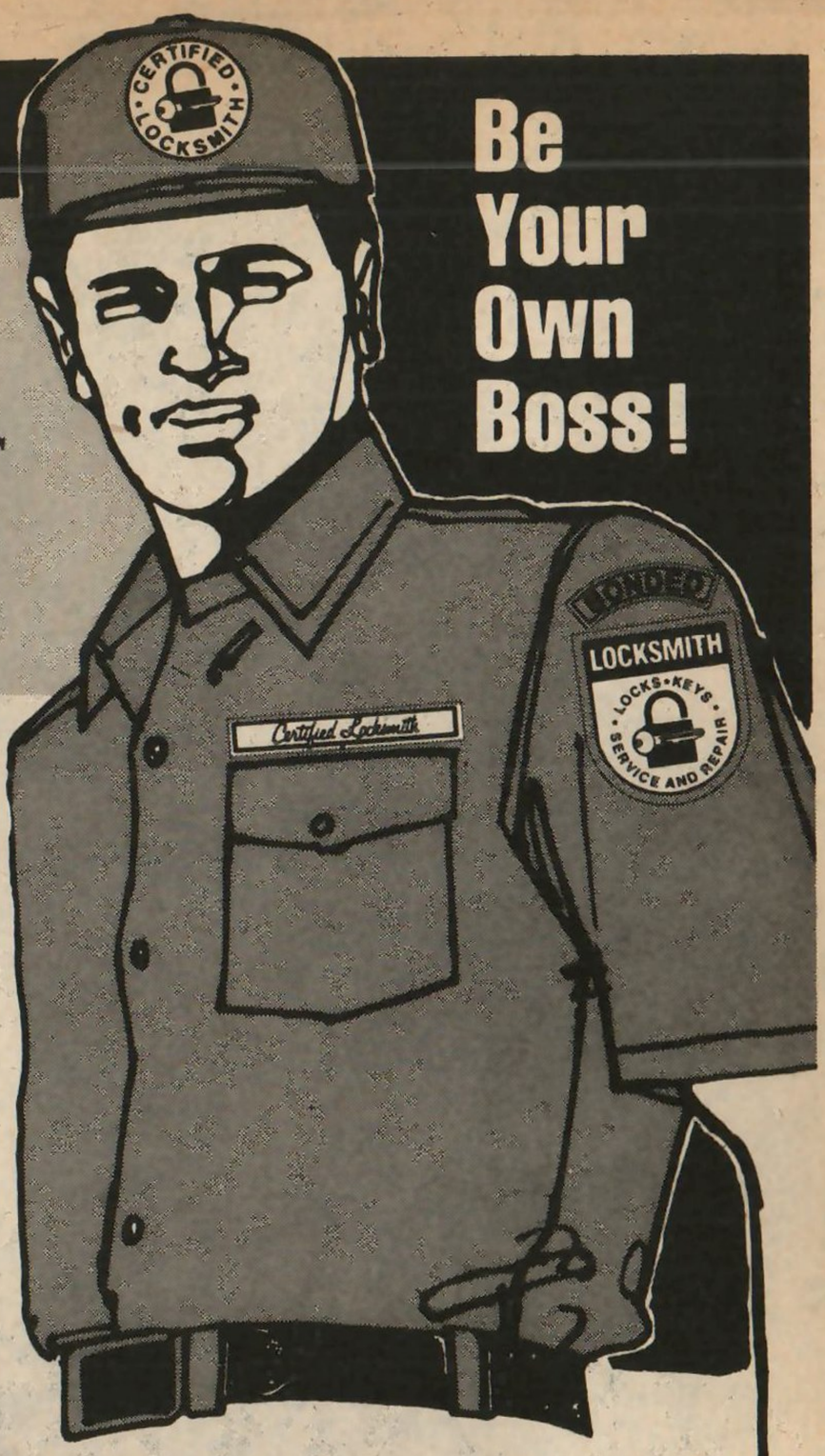

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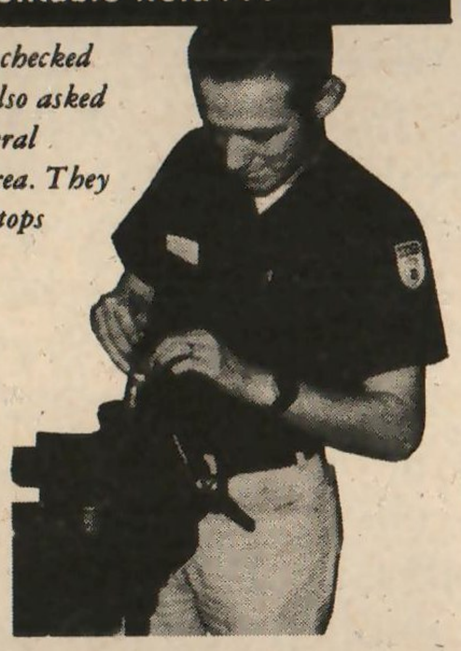
BE A LOCKSMITH!

Hundreds of Foley-Belsaw trained men have succeeded in this fascinating and highly profitable field . . .



"Before enrolling I checked other courses and also asked for advice from several locksmiths in my area. They all said yours was tops and has the most versatile Key Machine.

"I always wanted to be in business for myself and now I am . . . thanks to Foley-Belsaw Institute.

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"No more hard, nasty work for me. Now I have my own business and with hardly any effort I average around $50 a day. Thanks for my new start in life."
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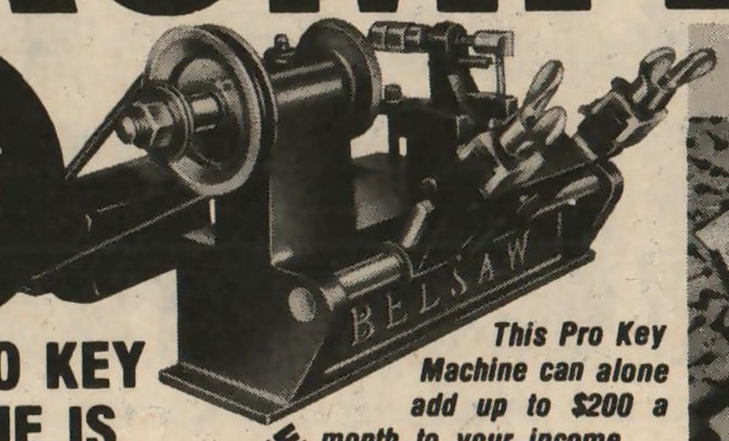

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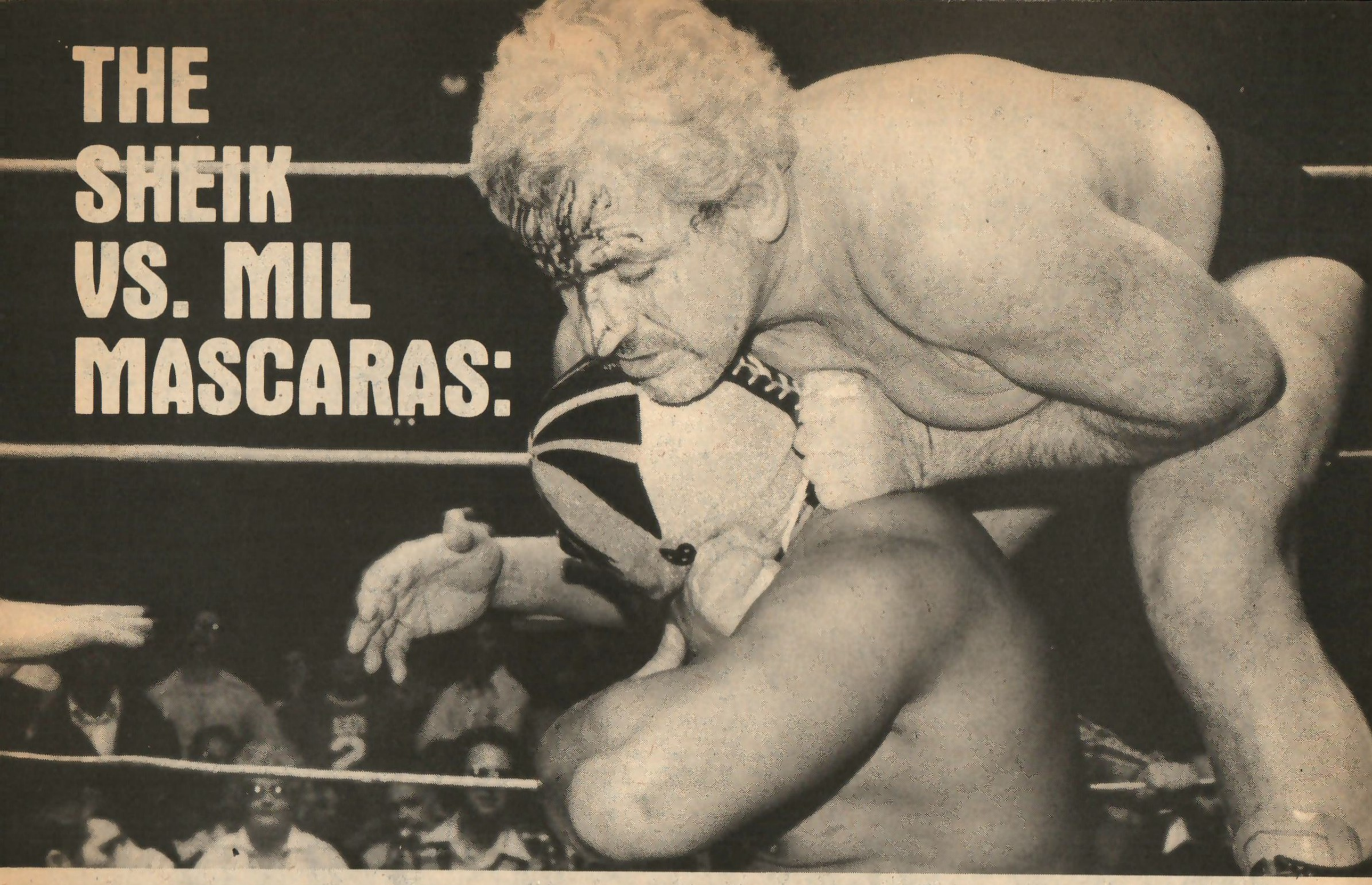
THE SHEIK VS. MIL MASCARAS:



PRELUDE TO BACKLUND?

EVERYONE WAS RELIEVED when the jet set down in Detroit. It had been a smooth flight except for one passenger who kept screaming, "I'm the Grand Wizard! I expect service!"

Grand Wizard was traveling to Detroit to see Sheik, one of the most despised men in wrestling, just the kind of grappler Wizard loves to manage. Sheik was going to face perhaps the most superb athlete in wrestling. Mil Mascaras. Wizard reasoned if Sheik should better Mascaras, then the Arab could easily take the WWF title from Bob Backlund. All Sheik would need would be the brilliant wrestling strategies of Grand Wizard.

Wizard had already spoken to Sheik about his plan. The Arab grappler knew Wizard would be in the audience. That meant Sheik was determined to be crueler, even more vicious than usual. He didn't intend to beat Mascaras. Sheik would be satisfied with no less than to hospitalize the masked superstar.

Wizard waited impatiently for the preliminary matches to end. Nothing makes Wizard more excited than an impending massacre. A match isn't complete, as far as Wizard's concerned, unless someone is

(Continued on page 12)

In his title reign, Bob Backlund has had to confront many terrifying challenges. Perhaps the most horrifying is the anticipation. He waits anxiously for the winner of The Sheik and Mil Mascaras. If they meet, the victor may come east. Looking for Bob Backlund

Skinny Men and Women

GAIN WEIGHT FAST!

with BODY BUILDER-P

THE THINNER YOU ARE, THE MORE YOU HAVE TO GAIN!

● At last, the weight gain program that you've been waiting for. If you've tried everything you could think of . . . and tried . . . and tried . . . and couldn't gain weight, **Body Builder-P is for you!**

● If you've been waiting for the right weight gain product, the one that will work with your body (not against it) to put on extra pounds as fast as you possibly can, **Body Builder-P is for you!**

● If you just need to gain a few pounds, or you really need to put on a lot of weight, **Body Builder-P is for you!**

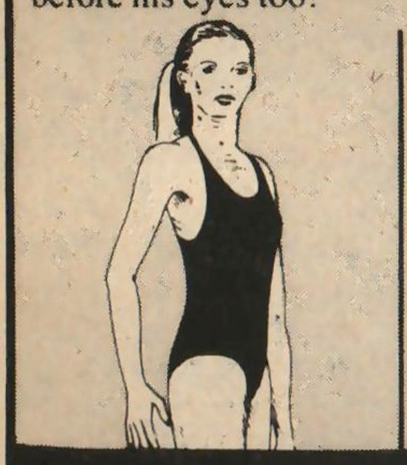
The fact is, **Body Builder-P** is for anyone who has ever wanted or needed to gain weight . . . because it's easy, because it's fast, because it's safe and most important of all because it works!

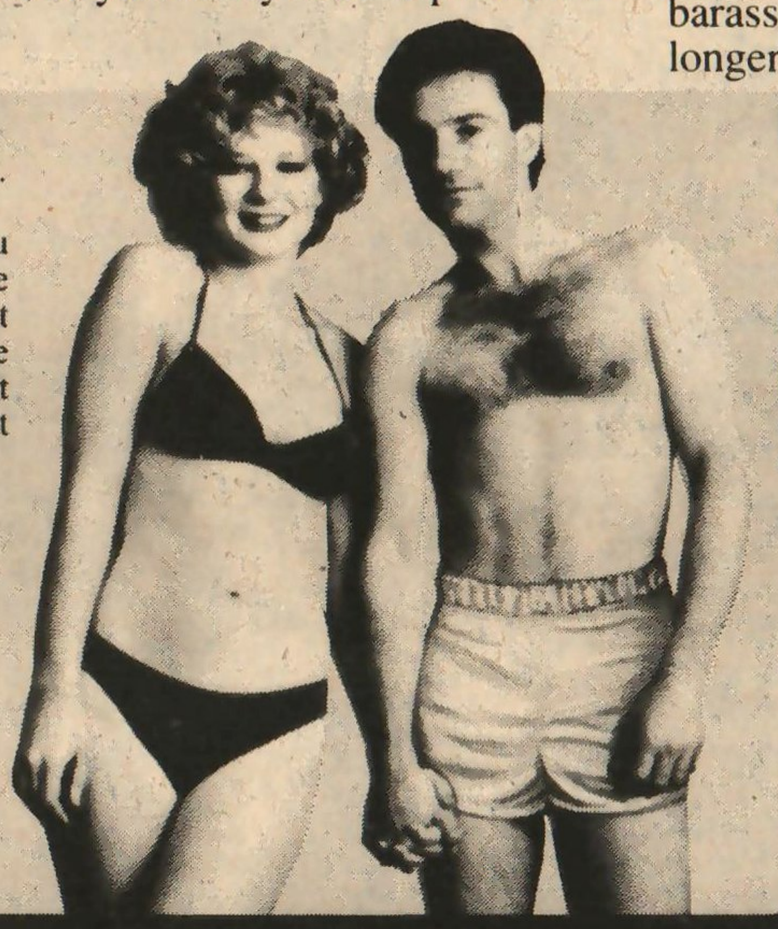
With **Body Builder-P**, you'll put on pounds faster than you ever dreamed possible. Now, there's no reason to wait and suffer the embarassment of being too thin for one minute longer!

FOR WOMEN

Think about it . . . knobby legs . . . flat chest . . . less hips . . . sunken in face . . . the list goes on!

Why worry and hide in baggy clothes when you could be showing off a beautiful body! You'll see what a difference *Body Builder-P* can make in just one week! You can look forward to those feminine curves . . . see the seductive new you blossom right before your eyes . . . and just as important . . . right before his eyes too!





FOR MEN

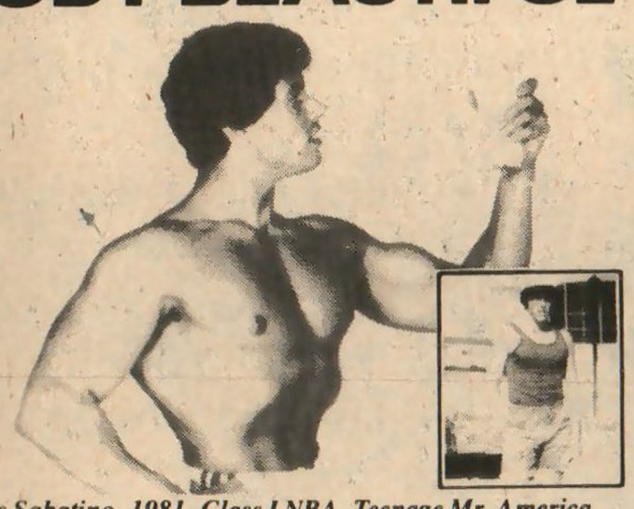
Spindly legs . . . weakling arms . . . scrawny chest . . . don't suffer when you can do something about it and become the man you want to be.

Women love men with some "meat on their bones." And you'll feel a new sense of pride and self confidence when your fantastic full, masculine body appears quickly . . . right before your eyes . . . and just as important . . . right before her eyes too!

WHICH BODY DO YOU WANT?!

WOMEN—If you picked the curvaceous, full figured body, but right now your chest is too flat, your legs are too thin, and your hips don't exist, *Body Builder-P* will change your life!

THIN and BONY to BODY BEAUTIFUL



Chris Sabatino, 1981, Class I NBA, Teenage Mr. America

"I was down to 135 lbs. of skin and bone when I built up 37 lbs. of muscle and became a champion. Now, you can use my *Body Builder-P* as part of your exercise program to gain weight and put some flesh on those bones. Girls, add curves, fill out, and get the figure you always wanted. Men, add inches of muscle and get an impressive manly body. You can do it! But don't wait. Order NOW!

YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO GAIN!

Body Builder-P is used to gain weight (not fat) and build body mass as part of the exercise program of champion bodybuilders. Imagine what it will do for you, whether you need curves or muscles.

This high powered natural food supplement contains rich protein, concentrated and fortified with 12 vitamins and 7 minerals, as well as all 8 essential amino acids. It blends into a delicious shake with juice or milk. And, it gives you added energy and leaves you feeling great!

You'll be amazed! This incredible formula goes to work immediately. Start to see results THE VERY FIRST DAY! In just a few days, you'll be looking at yourself in the mirror and you'll start to understand the incredible power of Body Builder-P! Then you'll get on the scale and realize that you've added pounds and pounds of impressive, attractive flesh.

So, don't wait even one more minute. Order your *Body Builder-P* NOW! If for any reason you're not 100% satisfied, simply return the unused portion within 30 days for a prompt refund (less p&h, of course), NO QUESTIONS ASKED! Don't delay. Mail in the coupon today!

MEN—If you picked the handsome, manly body, but right now you look like a skinny weakling, *Body Builder-P* will make you the man you want to be!

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The Body Shoppe, Inc. Dept.PSI310
P.O. Box 1046, Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

Yes, I want to gain weight fast! Rush my *Body Builder-P* as indicated below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I can return the unused portion within 30 days for a prompt refund, NO QUESTIONS ASKED! My check or M.O. is enclosed (NY & Ct. residents add sales tax)

☐ #928, 7 day supply of Body Builder-P at $12.95 + $1.75 p&h (Total: $14.70)

☐ #9282, 14 day supply of Body Builder-P at $21.95 +$2.65 p&h (Total: $24.60)

☐ #9283, 21 day supply of Body Builder-P at $29.95 + $2.95 p&h (Total: $32.90)

Mr. Mrs.
Miss Ms. _____

Address _____

City _____

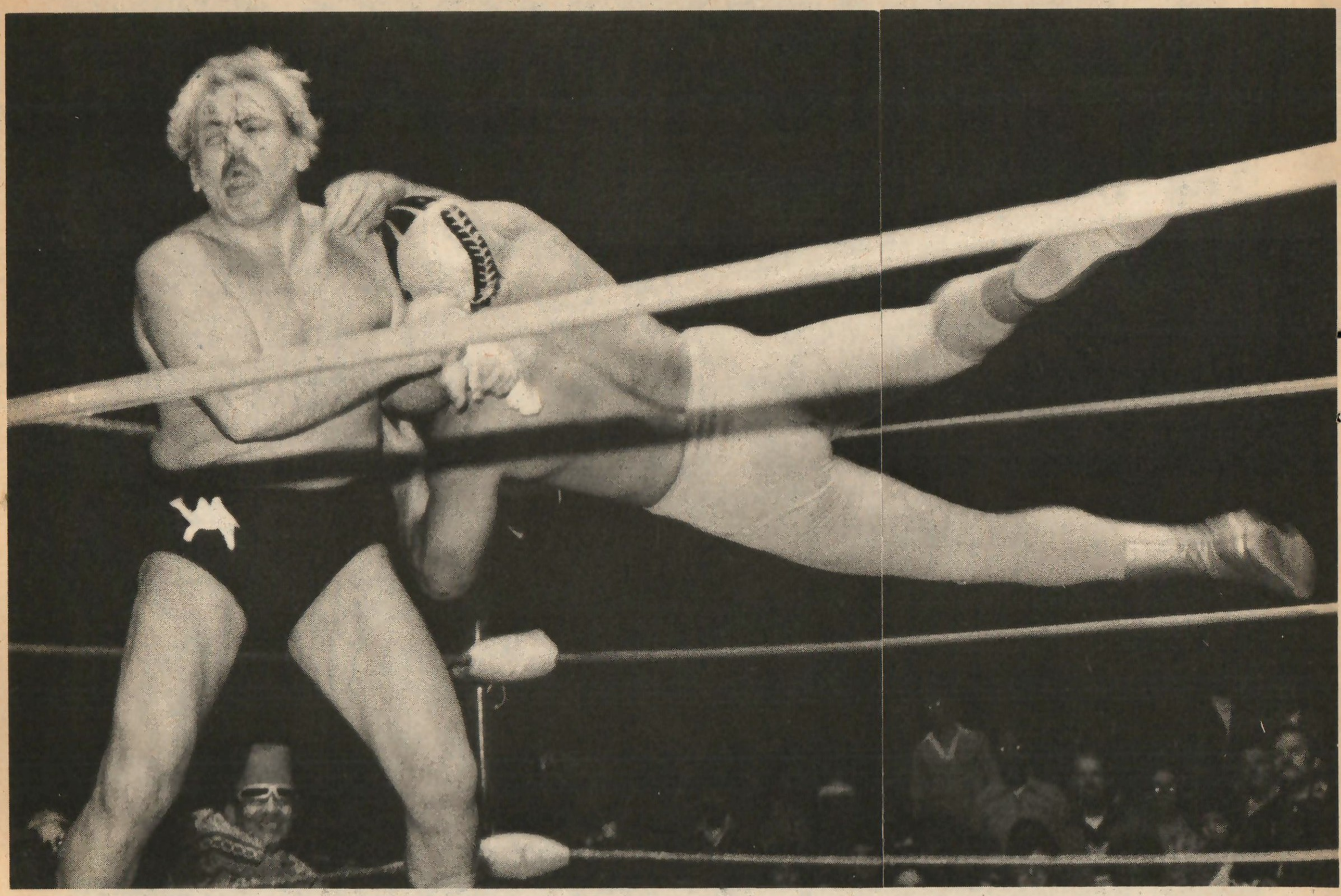
State _____ Zip _____

☐ M.C. ☐ VISA (min. $20) Expir. date _____

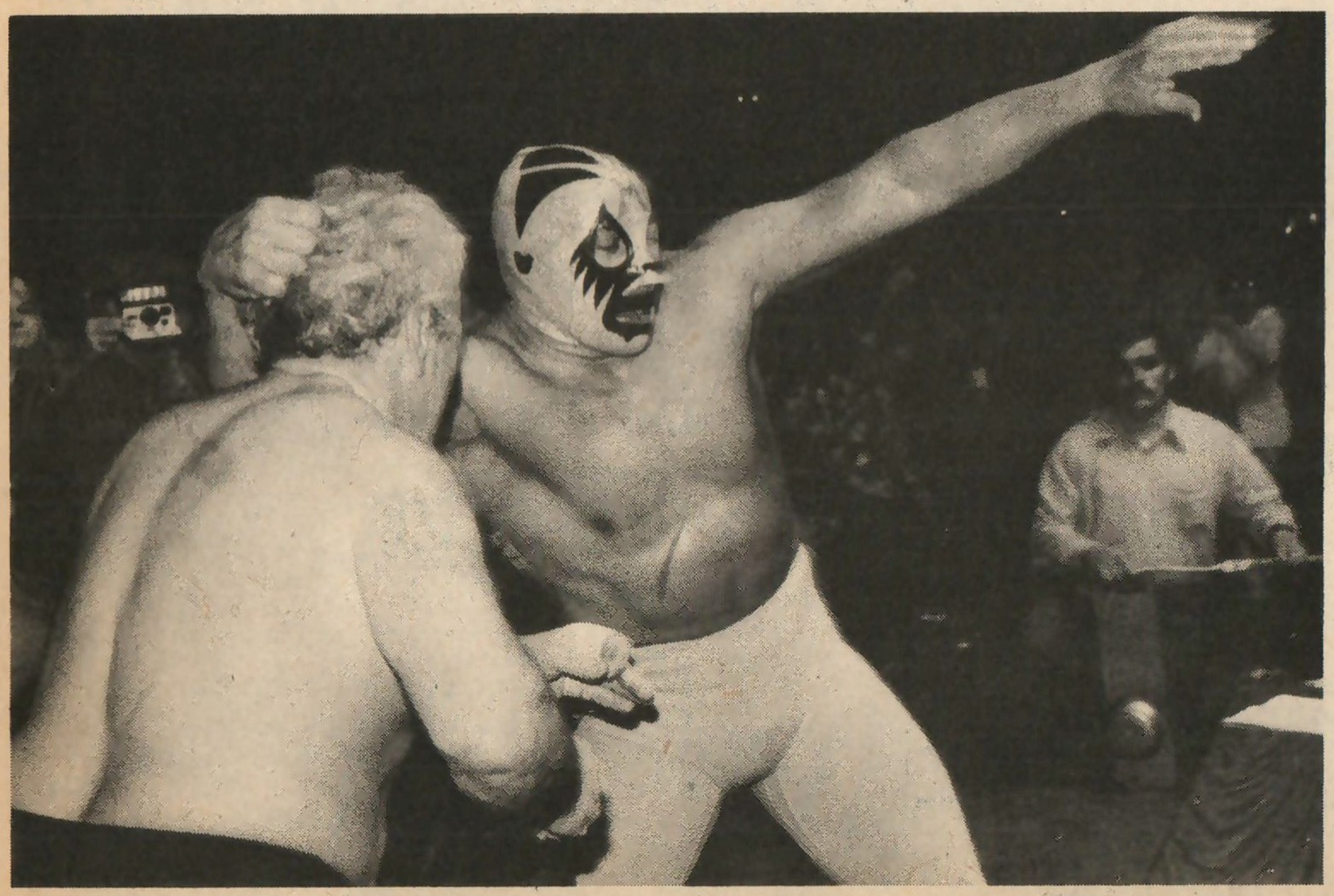
Account # _____

THE SHEIK VS. MIL MASCARAS

(Continued from Page 10)



Above: Mil Mascaras hits The Sheik with a flying tackle (above) as the Grand Wizard, in the background, implores The Sheik to throw an elbow smash. Below: As the action carried out of the ring, Mascaras sends Sheik's head toward the ring steps.



carried off on a stretcher.

Mil Mascaras had heard early that afternoon about Wizard being in Detroit. The wily veteran knew what was happening. By match time, Mil had worked up a number of strategies to combat Sheik's more infamous moves. Mil knew Sheik was going for the quick kill.

Finally, the moment arrived. Sheik strode into the ring as the crowd booed his entrance. Then, boos turned to cheers as Mil Mascaras made his way through the admiring throng. As Mil neared the ring, he saw Wizard smirking evilly. Mil walked on.

The two men stared at each other from across the ring. The

(Continued on page 14)

"There is nothing wrong with feeling good, but feeling too good can be a crime, that is, if you take your pleasure from prescribed or unprescribed substances."

A NATURAL LIFT!

REPRINT

Energy • Stamina • Feeling of well being

A Report on L-2000™ – The Safe Alternative.

☐ There is nothing wrong with feeling good, but feeling too good can be a crime, that is, if you take your pleasure from prescribed substances.

But what if I told you that you could purchase a pill – without prescription – that increased mental alertness and decreased hunger and fatigue? What if I mentioned further that the substance in the pill is 100 percent organic? You would probably be as skeptical as I was when I recently learned of L-2000™.

Lapsang, a variety of the shrub *thea sinensis*, grows wild in Assan as a tree of considerable size with leaves somewhat larger than those of the shrubby form cultivated in China. In China, *thea sinensis* (L-2000™) has been grown for 4,000 years or more. The shrub was introduced into Japan during the 13th Century, then into India, Ceylon and other parts of the East Indies toward the mid-19th Century.

L-2000™ is prepared by cutting, drying and rolling the leaves of stems of the mature plant. The ancient Chinese aristocracy promised a feeling of:

1. Increased mental clarity
2. Alertness and brighter spirits
3. More aware and discriminating sensations
4. Loss of appetite
5. A surge of sustained energy

In a symposium on the pharmacology and the physiological and psychological effects of L-2000™ *(thea sinensis)*, Dr. Phillips Frohman, Ph.D., M.D. stated, "The ability of *thea sinensis* (L-2000™) to make life just a little more pleasant is *unquestionable.*" It has been said that L-2000™ induces a state of consciousness midway between gently excitement and easy repose"... "The old and the young, the sick and the well are capable of enjoying this soothing lift." *Wow!*

Apparently, L-2000™'s wondrous powers cure certain types of headaches, neuralgia, menstral distress and bowel complications. But the claims pale in comparison to its elevating effects. Despite the natural suspicion that nothing as promising as L-2000™ can be either available or harmless. M. Grieve – author of "A Modern Herbal", a classic reference source – confirms L-2000™'s potency: "It is a gentle excitant and serviceable where the brain is irritated or depressed by mental exertion, or where there is fatigue or exhaustion.

L-2000™ has long been sold worldwide in many various forms. Recently, the tablet was introduced here in the United States and suddenly L-2000™ took off. The Food and Drug Administration has adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

But how do everyday peropie react to this natural, miracle lift? Douglas B., a Hollywood television director states, "I love L-2000™. I first used Lapsang as a diet to quickly lose 10 pounds but I soon discovered its (L-2000™'s) ability to give me unbelievable amount of energy during long shooting days. Now I keep L-2000™ with me all the time."

Daniel S., an award-winning art director, says of L-2000™, "This stuff gives me a lift! I mean *really*...It makes me feel great! How can I put it in any other words – my creativity level is always higher after I use L-2000™." Phil L., a truck driver from Houston, Tex., relates, "All you get on the road is tired and fat. Now, I can drive longer and I don't get jittery or nervous, or get that heavy crash that you get from other kinds of pills if you know what I mean." Sheila G., actress and model, New York, N.Y.: "Being a model, I have to constantly watch my weight. A couple of pounds over and I'm out of business. With L-2000™, I can eat less and work longer – really feeling up! It not only makes me feel good, it makes me look great." Bonnie C., secretary, Chicago, Ill., says, "We all have had bad days at the office...my answer to those days is L-2000™. Laura P., a waitress in Boston, Mass., explains, "Working in a restaurant you tend to nibble *all* the time. One of my regular customers turned me on to L-2000™ when I was complaining about gaining weight...well, I'm not gaining weight anymore, because I don't *feel* like nibbling."

Of course, L-2000™, with all its newfound endorsement and controversy, is bound to meet the usual resistance from the major pharmaceutical companies. But, the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates and classifies such substances, will be hard-pressed to half classifies such substances, will be hard-pressed to halt the importation of this miracle leaf, L-2000™. Remember L-2000™ has been utilized and its benefits have been confirmed for over 4,000 years. That, in itself, is amazing.

DIRECT SHIPMENT FORM

☐ 60 L-2000™ Tablets $19.95 _____

☐ 120 L-2000™ Tablets $37.60 _____

☐ 180 L-2000™ Tablets $52.50 _____

Add $2.00 Shipping & Processing $ 2.00

Total Enclosed _____

Send Check or Money Order (no C.O.D.) or charge to my

VISA ☐ or MASTERCARD ☐

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Mail to: The Robertson-Taylor Co. VSG-L1

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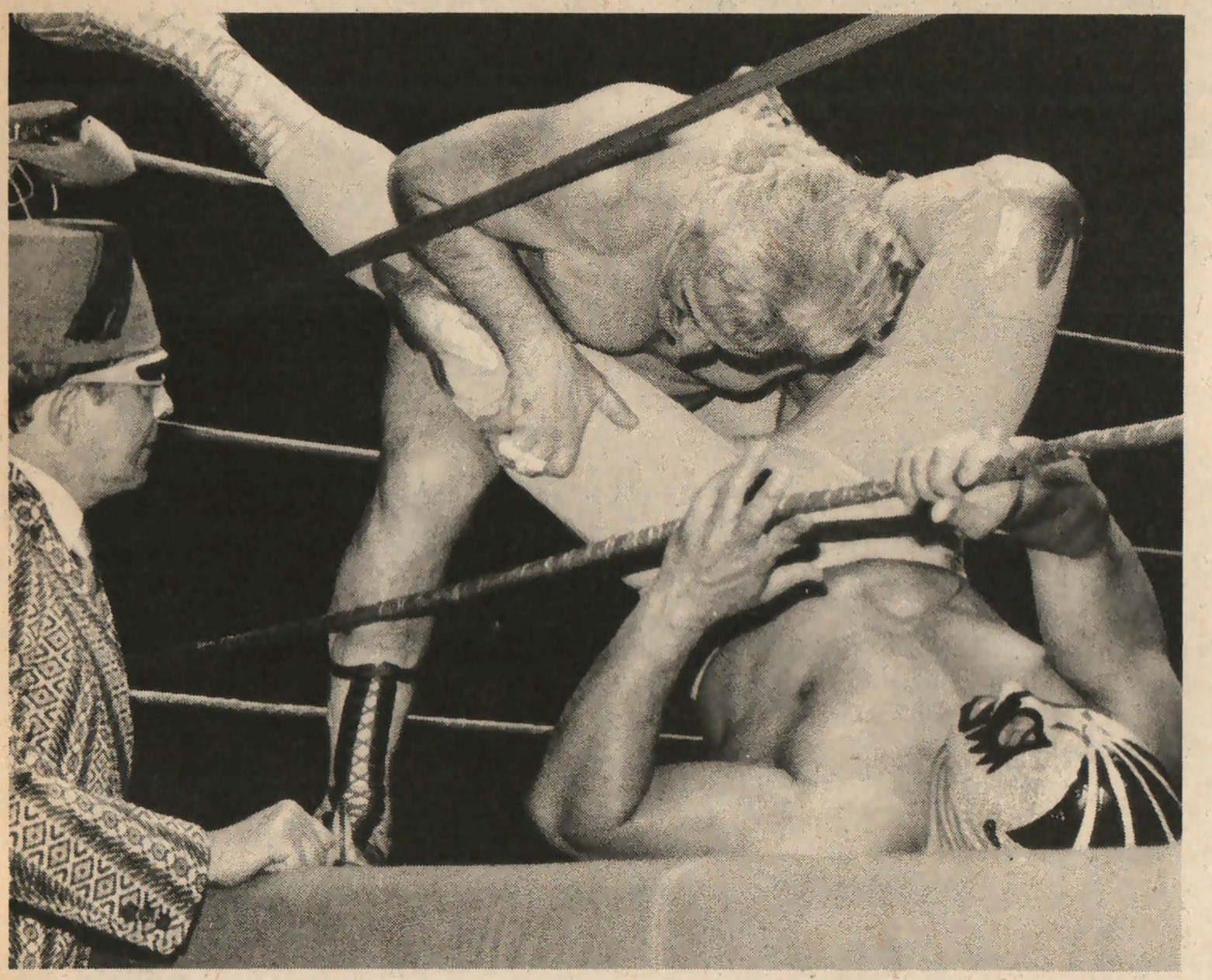
THE SHEIK VS. MIL MASCARAS

(Continued from Page 12)

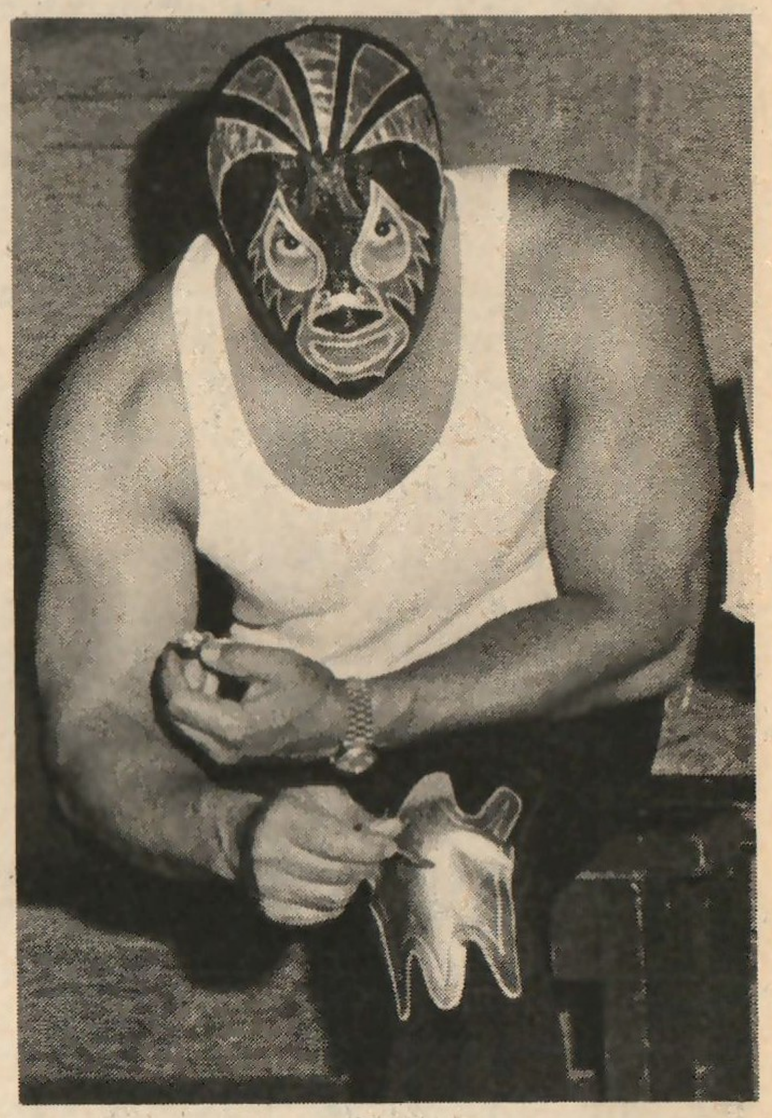


The Grand Wizard was very pleased with The Sheik's style of wrestling (above) and moments after his match with Mil Mascaras, he made the announcement that he had signed the Arab to a lucrative contract (below).

bell sounded. Sheik rushed toward his opponent. Mil stopped him with a flying body block. Sheik leaped back to his feet and rushed again. Mil managed to ward off his attack, but it was clear Sheik's assaults were punishing.

For the next 30 minutes, both men struggled desperately. It was a superb display of wrestling virtuosity by Mascaras, especially when one considers the vicious savagery of Sheik's maneuvers. Spectators were in awe of Sheik during this match, as one is always in awe of something totally evil.

The match ended in a draw. As the bell rang, one could sense that both men were relieved that the struggle had ended. Exhausted, aching, each man hurried quickly to the dressing room. The soothing waters of a hot shower beckoned them.



Mil Mascaras points out his injured left knee to the doctor after the match. It was only strained ligaments.

Wizard quickly made his way to Sheik's dressing room. Although the match was a draw, he loved what Sheik had done. With the proper coaching, with Wizard's coaching, Sheik was sure to take the WWF title from Bob Backlund. Wizard would once again be managing the king of the WWF.

It took no more than three minutes for the men to finalize the deal. The next day, Sheik packed his bags and headed east. Bloodlust rages within him as he sets his sights for Bob Backlund. □

Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT

Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes . . . Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do . . . go wherever you wish . . . do whatever you wish . . . without being detected . . . watch the antics of others behind closed doors . . . hear private conversations . . . make time run forward or backward . . . read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror" . . . find out what really happened in history . . . make your face old or young at will!

BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working . . . how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE . . . how to get a first-class plane seat FREE . . . how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

• Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some $250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the speli, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE *and* receives $200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER . . .

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
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- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience . . . we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

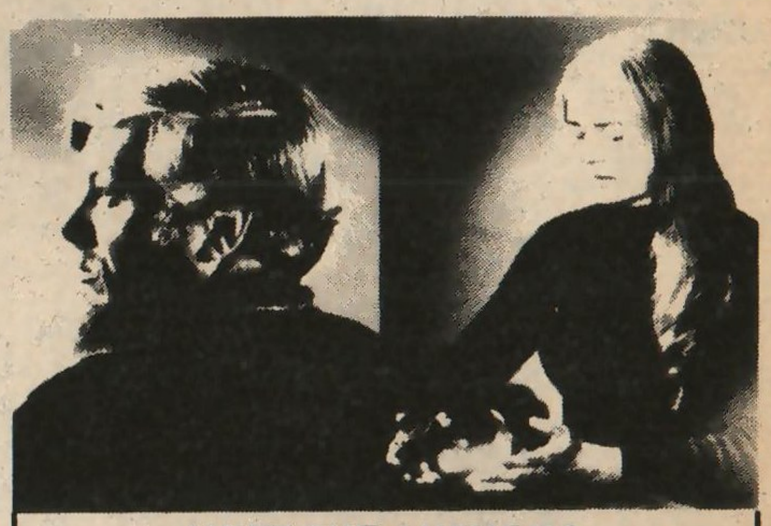
• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

SEND TODAY FOR YOUR NO-RISK COPY!

Witchcraft can make you rich, even in a ghetto! You should never have to worry about the rent, or where the next dollar is coming from, never have to apologize to a boss! No matter how poor you are now, THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT can bring you a life filled to the brim with pleasure, wealth, and all the glittering luxuries of the world! To get your copy of this amazing Witch Book, simply fill out and mail the no-risk coupon!



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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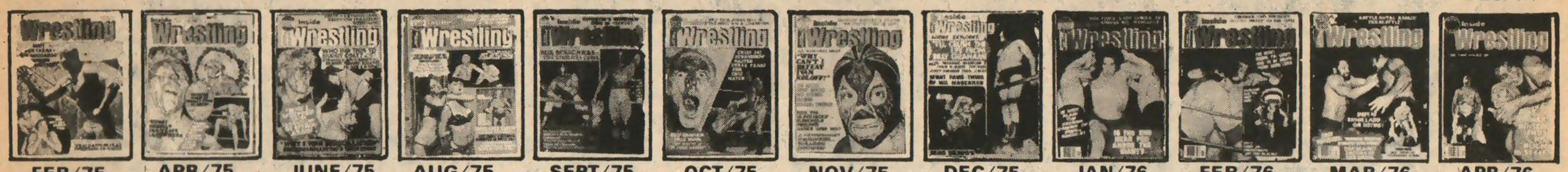

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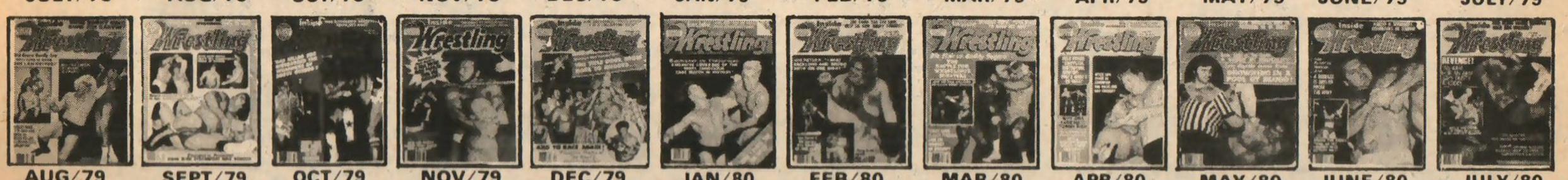

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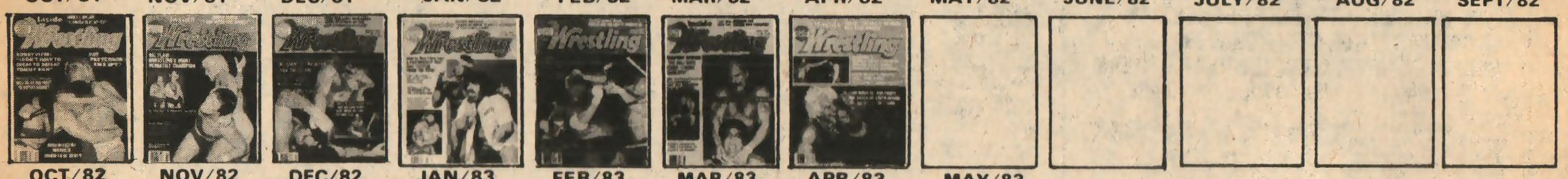

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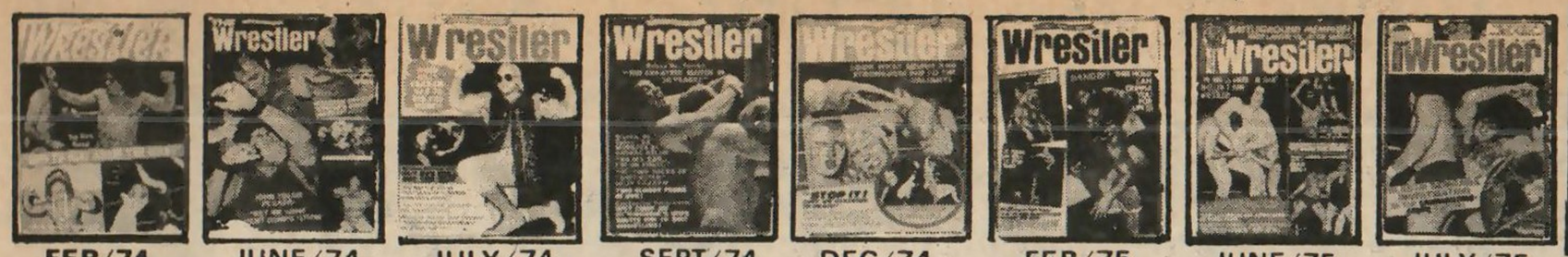

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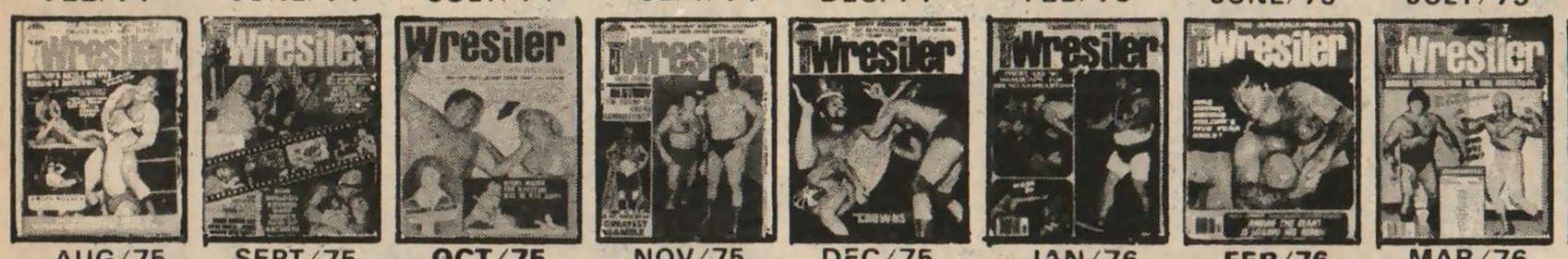

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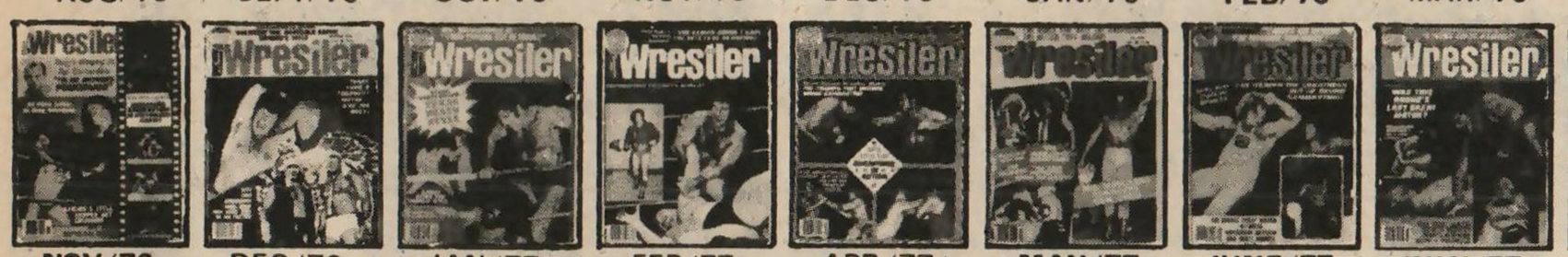

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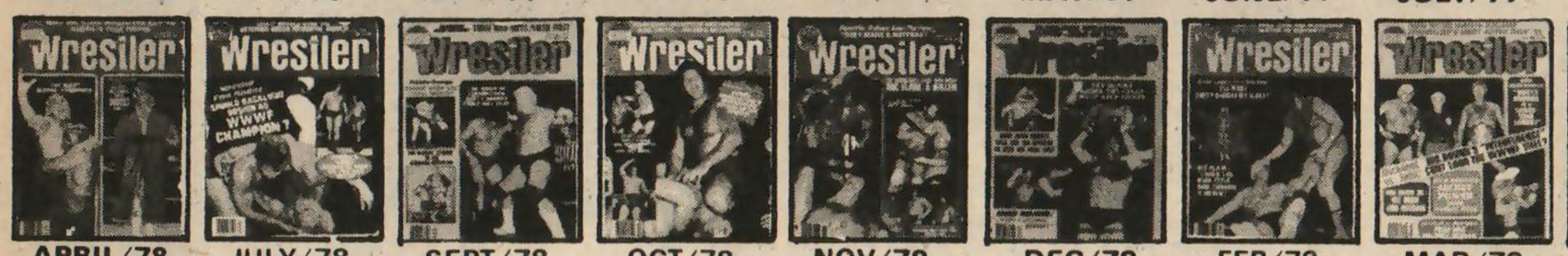

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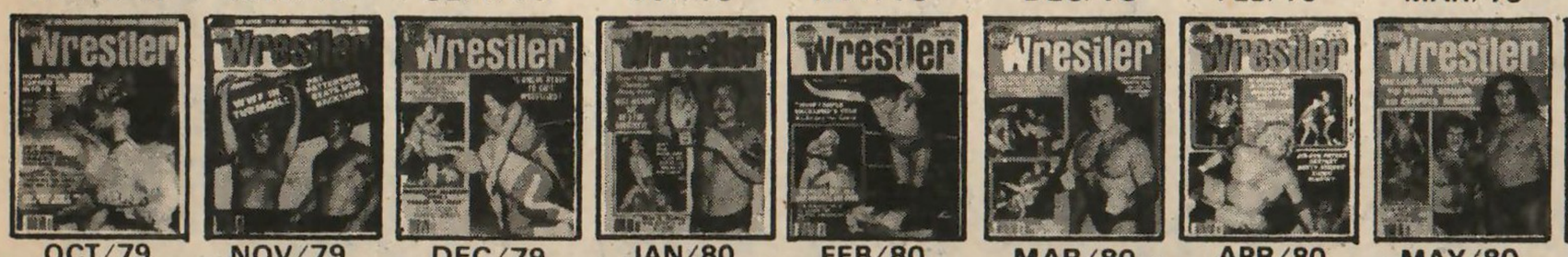

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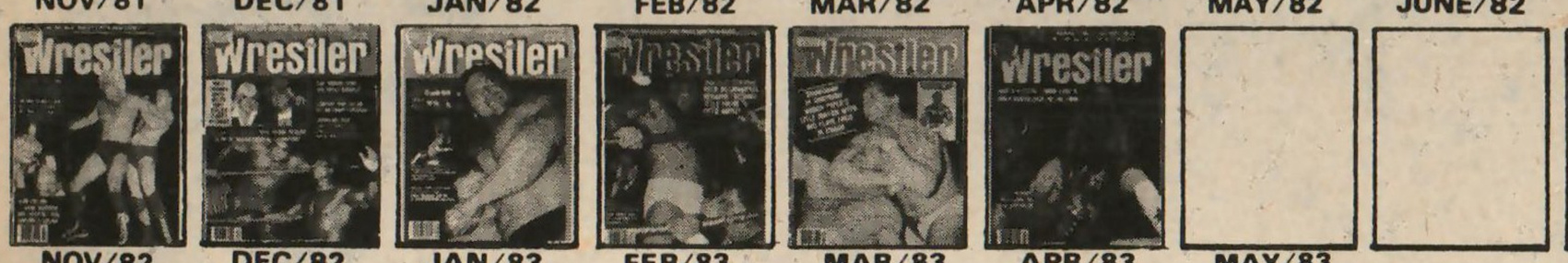

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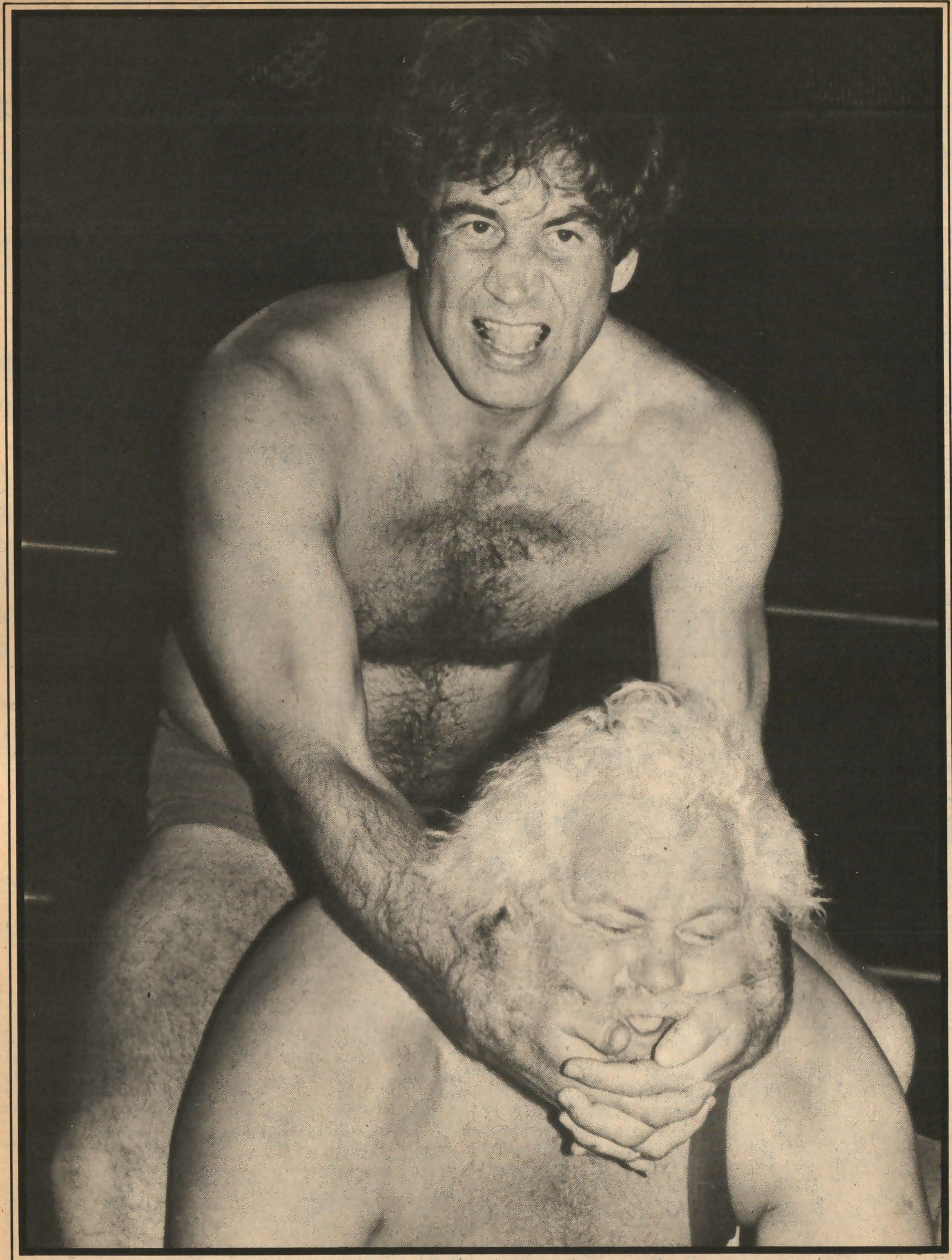

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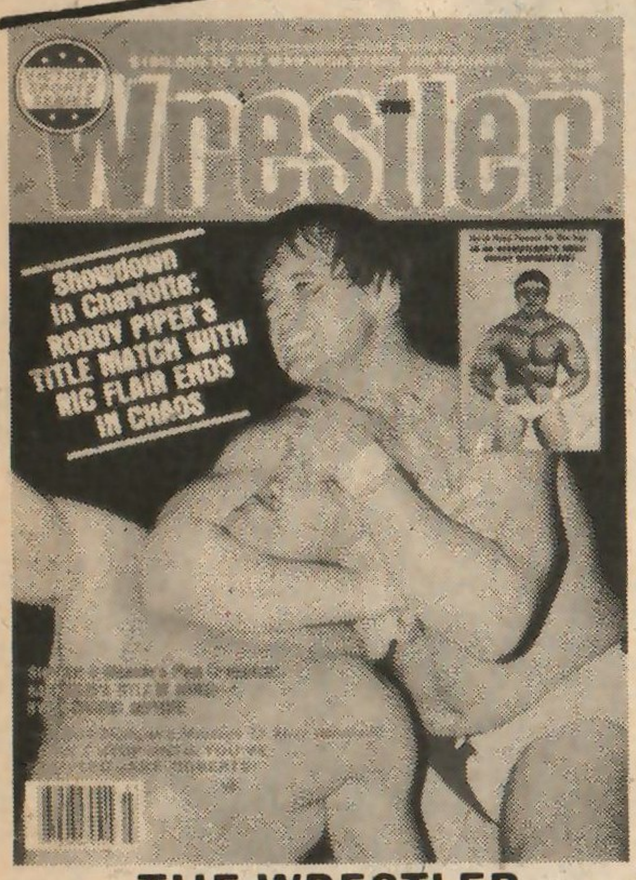

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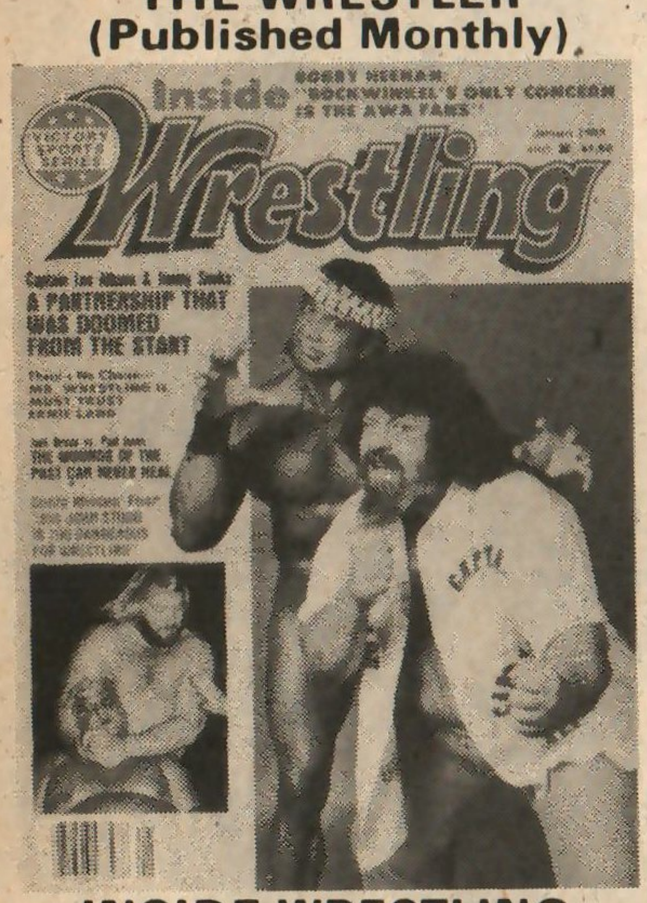

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LETTERS TO LARRY ZBYSZKO

(Larry Zbyszko's brutal attack on former mentor and friend, Bruno Sammartino, provoked waves of outrage from wrestling fans. Letters protesting Zbyszko's conduct have flooded our office. Here are a representative sampling of the public's commentaries.)

Dear Larry,

I am just disgusted over what happened in a recent WWF match between you and Bruno Sammartino. To think that you would stoop so low to do that to Bruno, Larry. Bruno has done so much for the sport of professional wrestling. He taught you so much, Larry, as if he were your own brother.

You should be kicked out of the WWF for what you've done. I hope you get what you deserve.

STEVE PAPPAS
Paramus, NJ

Dear Larry,

I hate you. Bruno gave you what you wanted, a match with him. He proved he was a better man. Then you brought a chair into the ring and hit him with it three times.

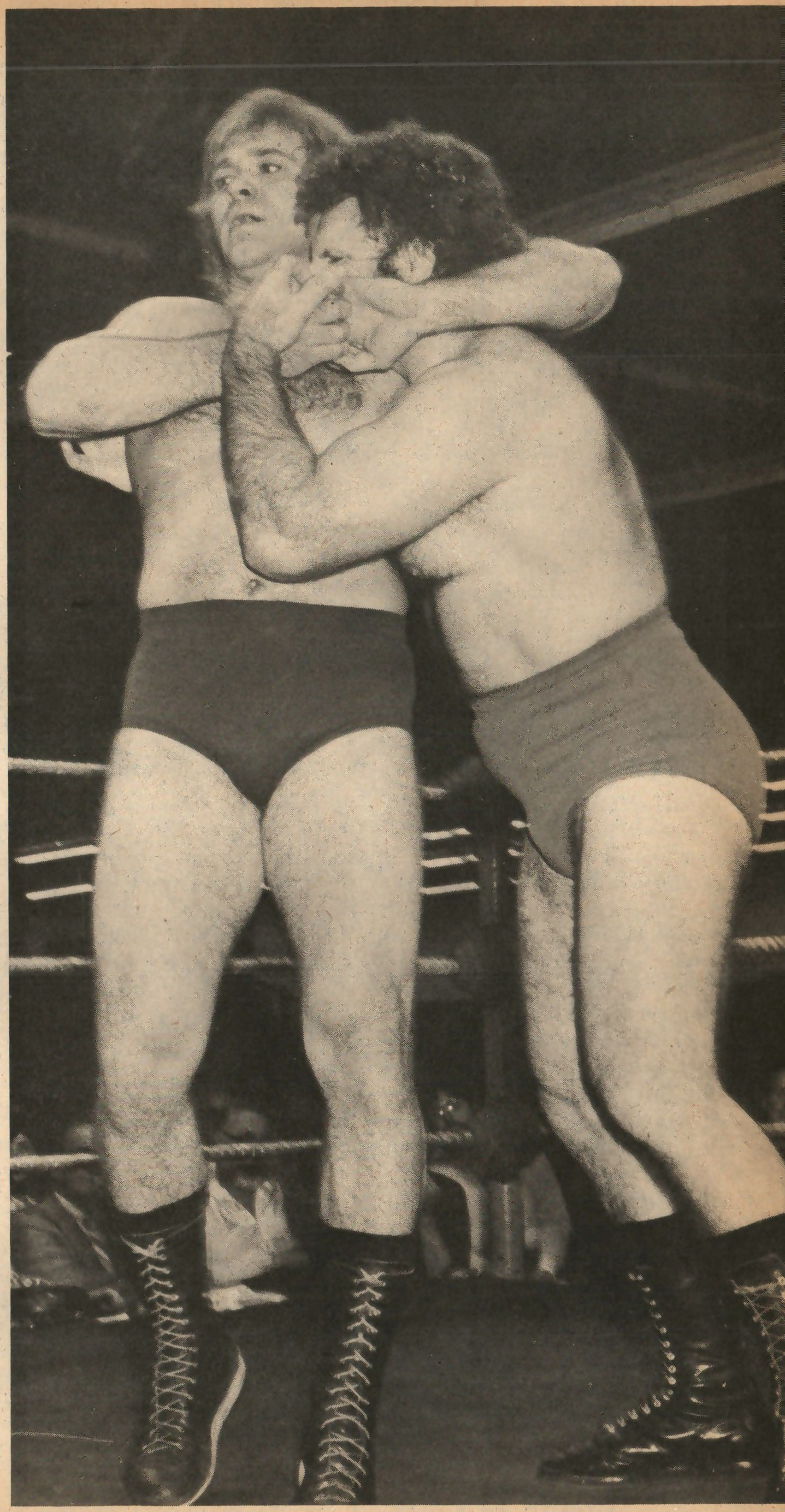
I hope Bruno destroys you because you'll never be forgiven for what you did. I don't care if you wrestle scientifically or as a rulebreaker, you're an insect, Zbyszko. You'll pay for what you did. You brought a chair into the ring because you couldn't beat Bruno any other way. Bruno will get even.

STEVE LOWER
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Larry,

How could you? I mean, how could you do that to your friend? I cannot believe you are that frustrated and bitter as to turn on your best friend in the whole world. What you did is beyond forgiving, Larry.

VICTOR ABILLI
Mansfield, OH



The ringside physician tends to Bruno Sammartino after his head was split open by Zbyszko's swinging chair.

Dear Larry,

For years, I've had your pictures all over my room. I had pictures of you on my walls, on my desk, even a snapshot in my wallet. Well, I've taken them all down and ripped them to shreds. I'm too ashamed to keep your picture on my wall.

Like all fans, I still can't understand how you could do this. But I don't want to hear any of your stupid excuses about living in Bruno's shadow. Nothing is worth betraying your best friend.

NANCY HUNT
New York, NY

Dear Larry,

I can't watch wrestling anymore. And it's all because of you. My world crumbled when you hit Bruno on the head with the chair. I could see that coming from a lot of wrestlers, but not you, Larry.

You once stood for something. No more. You once meant something to fans. No more. You once had everyone's trust and everyone's respect. No more.

I hope you win a title, Larry. That's all you have left.

JOHN KARAS
Hartford, CT

Dear Larry,

Only one thing would satisfy me and that's if Bruno Sammartino takes a chair and splits open your head. But you know he wouldn't. Bruno has too much class and decency, something you wouldn't understand. Bruno would want revenge in a nice, honorable manner.

I can't wait for the match where Bruno breaks one of your legs or something. That'll show you.

BRIAN REILLY
Garden City, NY

And those who favor Zbyszko's actions.

Dear Larry,

Bravo for you, Larry. About time someone taught that hairy monkey a lesson. You did the right thing. I'm proud of you. I hope the hairy monkey gives you a rematch so you can break his skull open again.

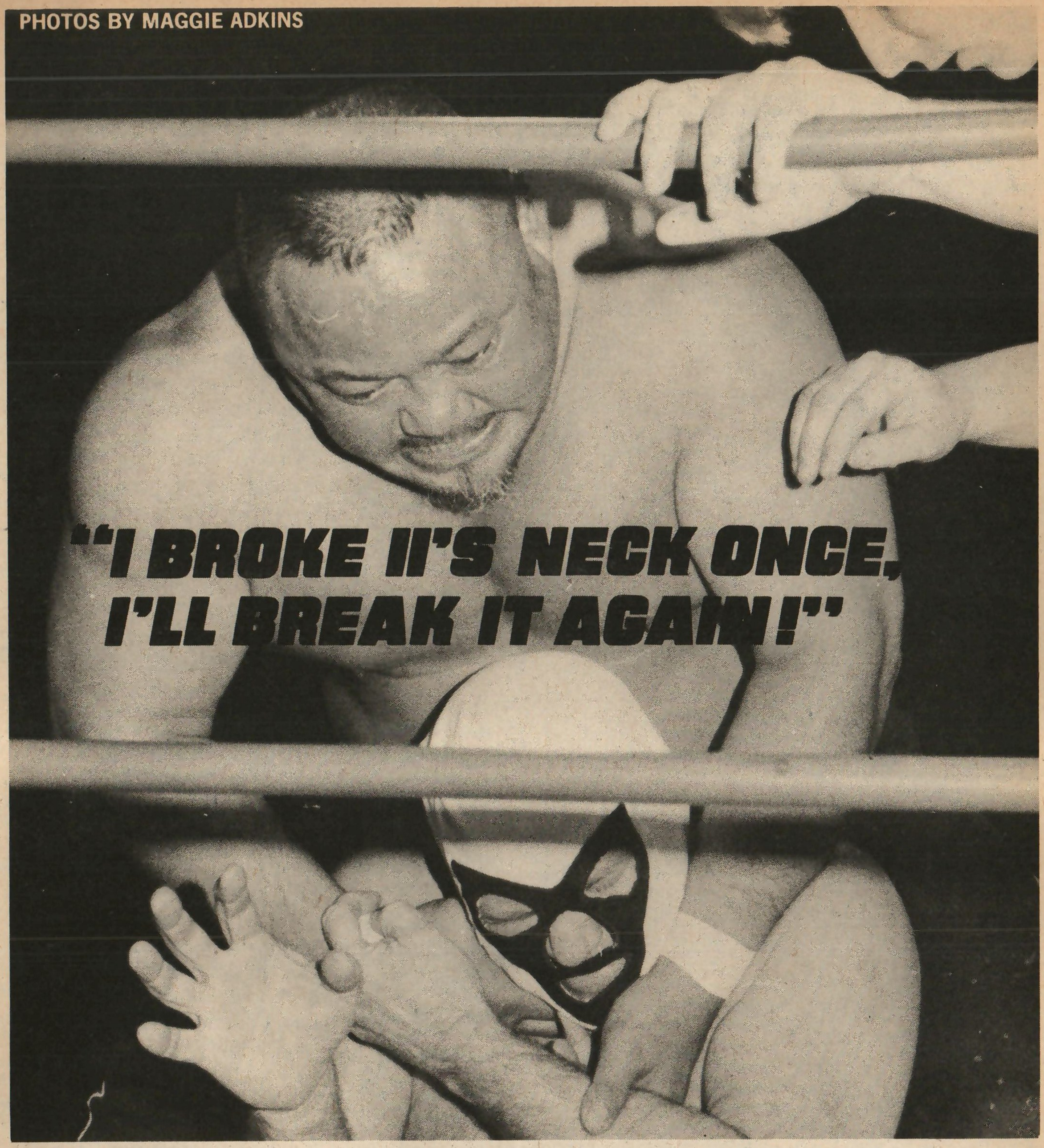
BARBARA STAG
Falls Church, VA

Dear Larry,

I would have done the same thing you did. Bruno is jealous and never would've let you get your fair share of the glory. It's Bruno's fault things went to this. You did what you had to do and not one moment too soon.

KEVIN COLLINS
Albany, NY □

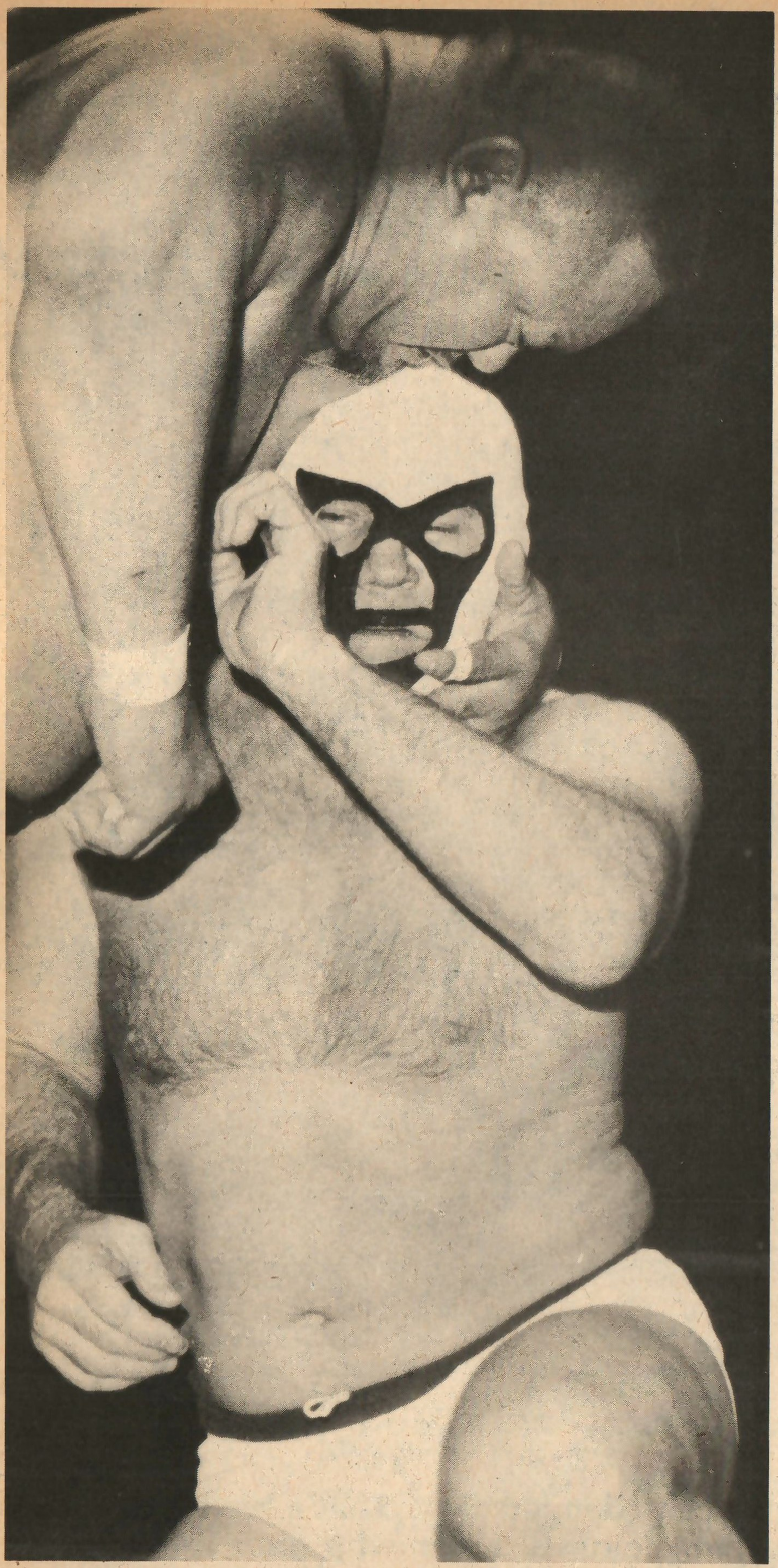
PHOTOS BY MAGGIE ADKINS



SOME MEN CARRY pictures of their wives, children of brothers and sisters in their wallets. Others carry remembrances of youthful past, scenes by the beach, in the woods, a smiling, blonde-haired girl with willowy legs and an even tan.

Professor Toru Tanaka carries no such pictures. He is not a sentimental man. In fact, few believe Tanaka capable of warmth for a fellow human being. Not that he is emotionless. Tanaka subsists on a healthy diet of hate and bitterness, much of it ill-founded. That's never stopped psychotics before.

Mr. Wrestling II confronts danger daily. That's his job. And when the foe is a former nemesis, a man who once broke his neck, the job, and the stakes, are greater than ever. Would that stop II?



Tanaka holds Mr. Wrestling II's head and delivers a series of karate chops to the side of his neck. Although he tried his best, Tanaka was unable to break II's neck again as he claimed he would.

Inside Tanaka's wallet is one item and one item only: a small reproduction of an X-ray. That X-ray shows a broken neck. Mr. Wrestling II's broken neck.

"I wanted something to remind me of that wonderful moment," said Tanaka, smiling cruelly.

II requires no portable X-ray. The scars, both physical and emotional, walk step-by-step with the masked man.

"I'll never forget that night," said II, twisting his neck and wincing. "Hurt? No, my neck doesn't hurt. Only when I think of Tanaka and that night."

Another curious manifestation exploded. Sweat dribbled beneath II's mask and down his neck. His hands wettened, lips pursed, facial gestures squirmed beneath the white mask. Mr. Wrestling II nervous?

"Takes a man to confess fear," said II, rubbing his moist hands together. "I'm not afraid of Tanaka, mind you. Not that I'd run away. Heck, I've never run from anyone in my whole life.

"I'm not avoiding Tanaka. But facing him brings back that awful memory. Anytime you meet someone or something connected with a bitter and painful memory, you have what I'd call an emotionally allergic reaction.

"If Tanaka were simply a fiend, which he is, I'd leap into the ring without a moment's hesitation. But Tanaka's more than a fiend. He's a mindless crippler bent on maiming and ruining careers. You cannot respect that. You must fear that.

"Not fear in the sense of being afraid of going forward and meeting your adversary. Fear in the sense of intelligent caution, weighing all the factors, assessing all the options, being totally mindful of your foe's destructive capacity.

"I know what Tanaka is capable of. If anyone in the world knows, it is I. And I deal with that capacity and that evil with my own selective style."

II's thoughts explore a fascinating question relevant to the entire relationship between scientific wrestler and rule-breaker. How does one actually destroy evil?

"You must respect the evil," said II. "You must accord evil total and complete respect, acknowledge its dangerous potential. Unless you understand evil, you can never fully destroy it.

"By understanding evil, you can anticipate the disease, anticipate where it will strike and how it will strike next. I can anticipate Tanaka's every maneuver. Yes, I know the beast, I have seen the beast's face, its very soul.

"Fear? Of course it makes me fearful. I'm only human. If you were meeting one as warped as Tanaka, one as cruel and evil, one who had broken *your* neck, wouldn't you have some fear? Isn't that healthy?"

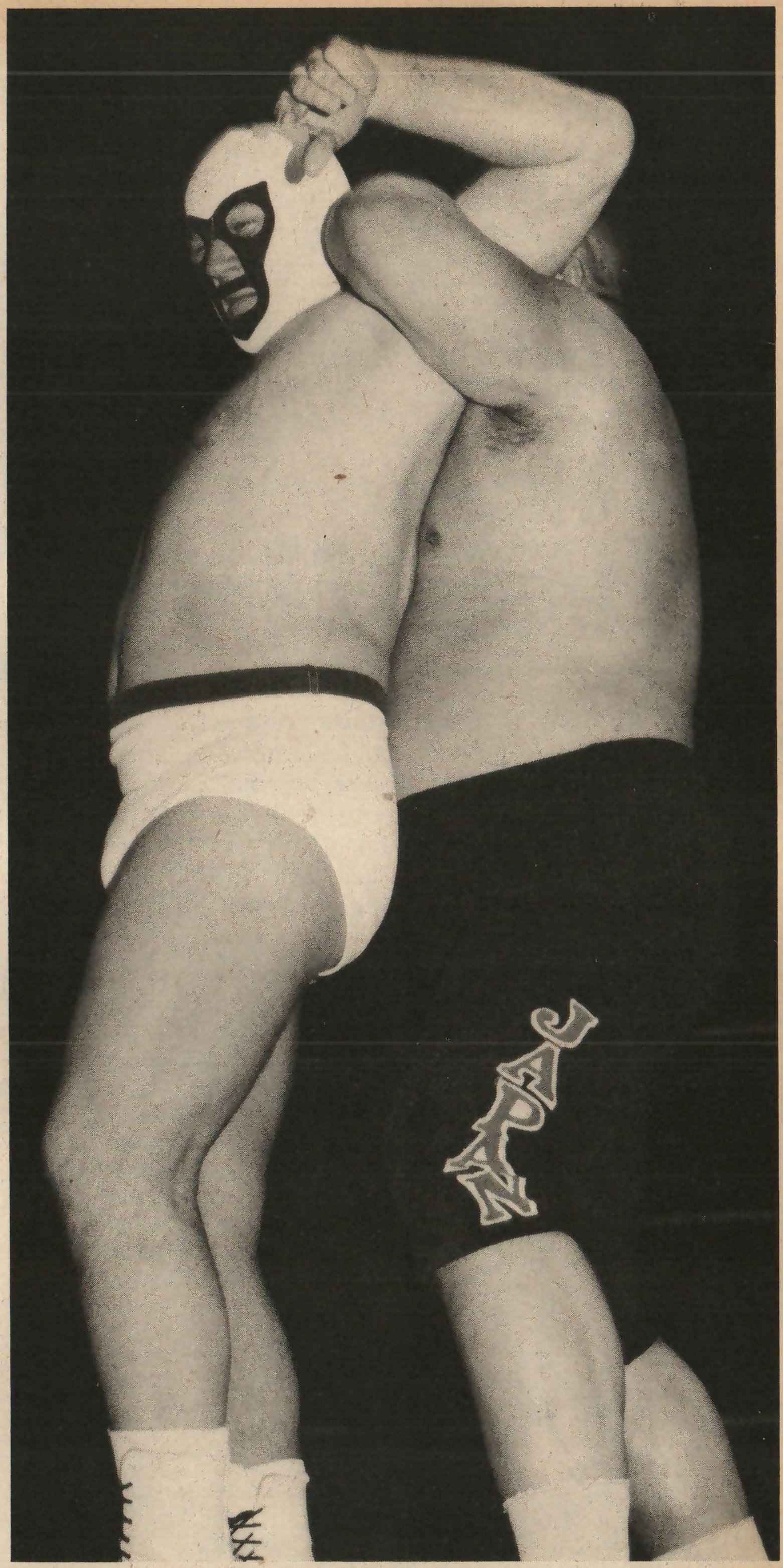
Tanaka scoffs at II's philosophy.

"He talks. All he can do is talk. He has nothing else going for him except his big mouth. I broke II's neck once, I'll break it again," Tanaka burst into throaty laughter, stopped, his expression grim and foreboding, a maniacal light in those piercing brown eyes.

"Words do nothing, see, nothing?" Tanaka shook his balled fist. "Words are useless, only this matters?" Again he shook his fist. "Muscle counts. Violence counts. Words belong on paper, not in the ring.

"Let II bring his words into the squared circle. I am ready. When the match is over, his words will be reduced to tortured moans." Tanaka grinned, then laughed loudly.

So II confronts the evil, the devil incarnate, as masked men have done throughout the ages. He is armed with his inner strength and goodness. Georgia fans, indeed, all fans across the land, wonder if that is sufficient to turn back the terror of Toru Tanaka. □



Mr. Wrestling II tries to defend his once-broken neck against Tanaka's attack. Although II admitted to fearing the man who almost ended his career, he was still able to overcome the man.

LOU ALBANO Talks Wrestling

Each month in THE WRESTLER, Captain Lou Albano will offer his unusual views on professional wrestling. Some may agree with him. Others may say it's the ravings of a berserk maniac. Still, no one can accuse the Captain of not being interesting. We feel this column is important, because no matter how hated a man may be, his opinions deserve to be heard

(For the past few months, Captain Lou Albano has refused to speak to the wrestling press, contending his quotes are distorted and his intentions obscured. Despite taped evidence, Albano insists his words are slanted. No more quotes from the great man. Since this magazine's primary responsibility is informing the public, we couldn't permit a silent veil to descend upon Albano. We offered him column space, totally unedited. Albano agreed, warning at the first sign of editing, he'd pull the column and sue us from "here to Mongolia, around the Cape, up the Coast and into my grandmother's living room, if need be.")

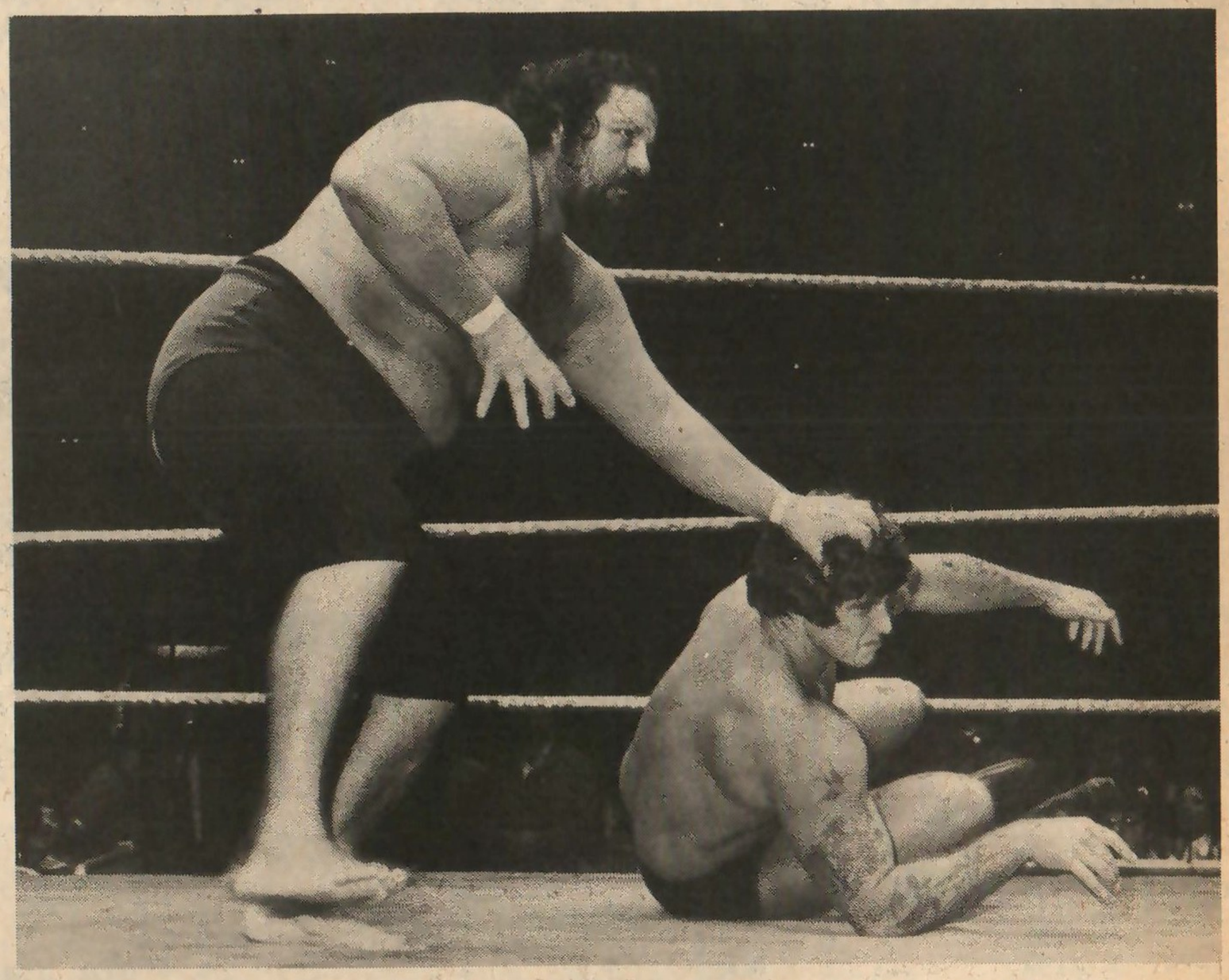
"Look who's number one! They said the Samoans could not be directed toward a traditional goal. They said even the Captain could not train these men. But they are tag team champions now. And they will remain champions for a long time."

WHEN THE BOZOS at this magazine gave me space to write, I spent a day, no, two days, pacing, thinking, walking the floor, staring at walls trying to think of what to say. Then it hit me like a cheap-shot Bruno move: The Captain doesn't have to think of things to say. The Captain is a genius, a man whose words flow like water after a rain, a man whose mind has been compared to Einstein, DaVinci, and Salk. The Smithsonian wants me when I'm done, medical schools want to study me when I'm gone. They'll have to wait, I got too much to do and say before I go.

And I'll start right here.

All my life I've hated cowards. Some guys I've had to

"Now here are three brilliant men. The Grand Wizard, The Captain, and Fred Blassie (above). There is absolutely no rivalry or jealousy among us. We're all brothers. Anybody who says The Captain doesn't have it in the ring anymore should look at this photo of me beating up Tony Garea (below)."



slap around, knock some sense into them. Tell you a little story about Howdy Doody Backlund. The spineless shrimp started bawling one day, right in front of the arena. Right there, a pro wrestler wailing like a little baby.

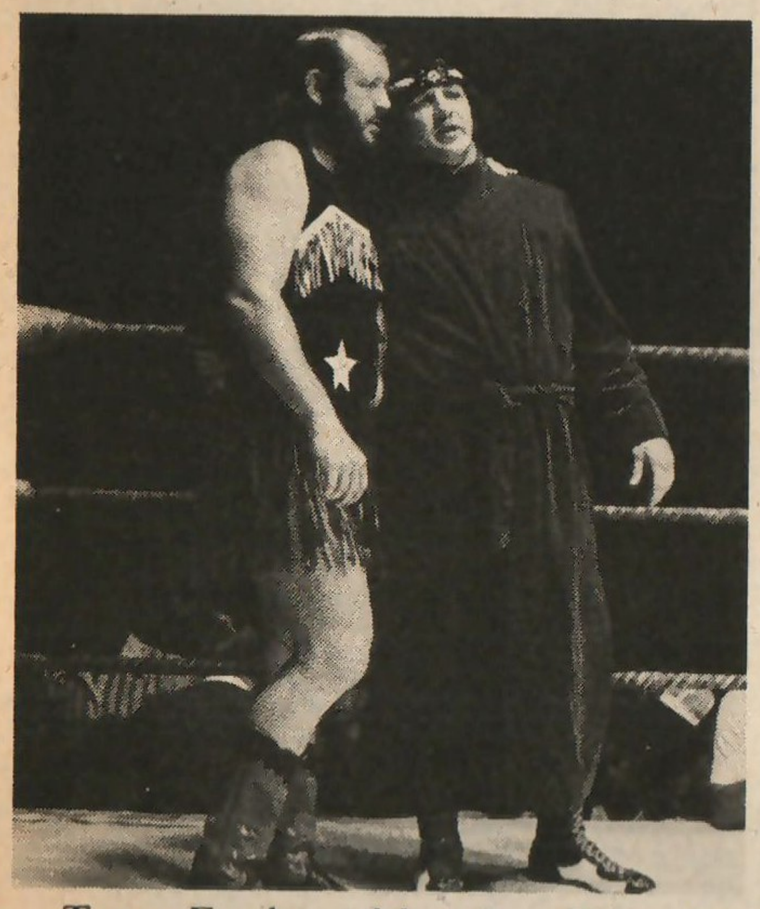
I took him aside and slapped him. I told him he was disgracing the greats of this game, them who've made their mark, the men who are matinee idols. I'm talking about the Valiants, the Samoans, the Ladds, the greats, the ones who never whine, never complain, who are true to their trade.

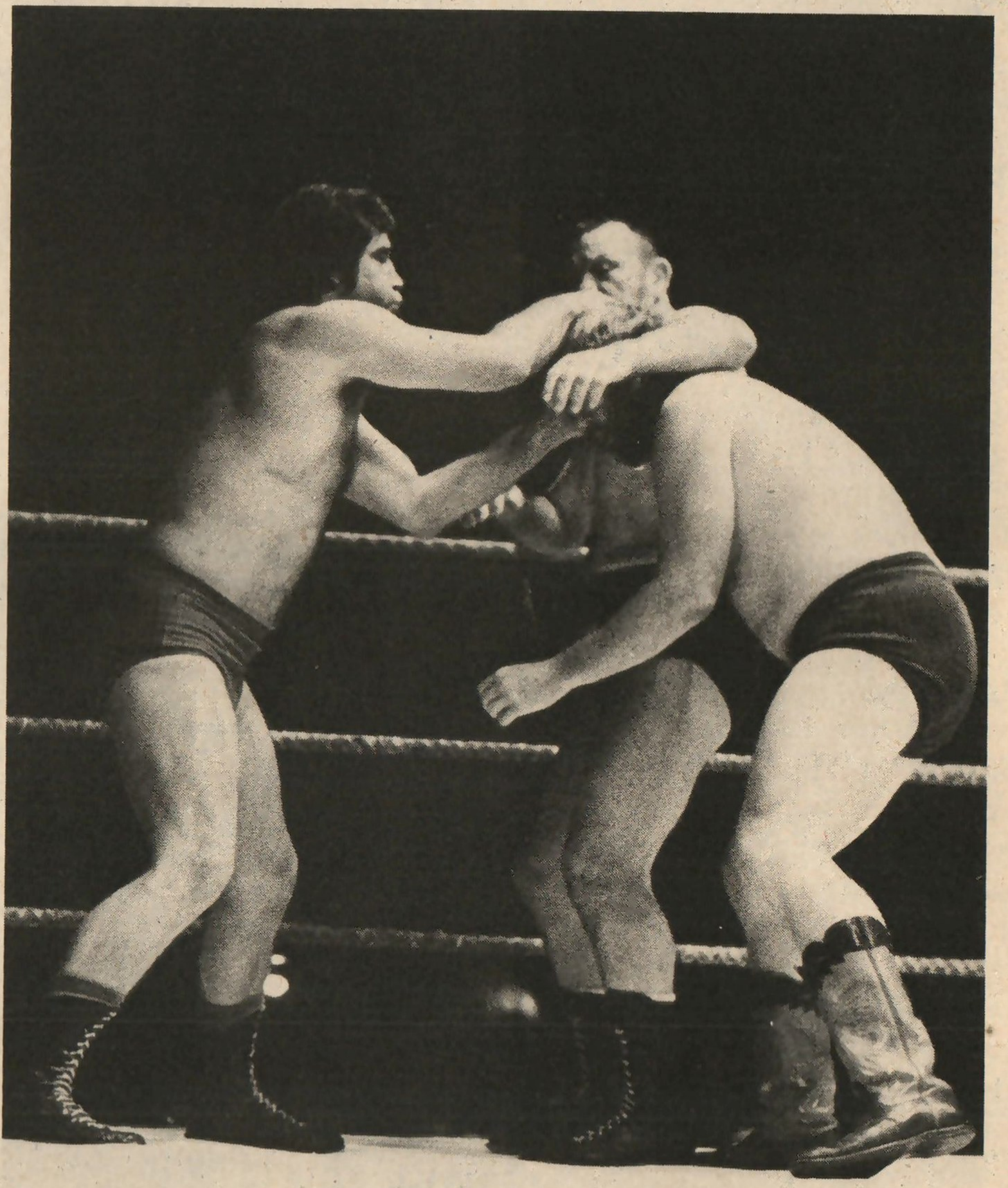
I grab the bum and scold him, tell him to hang his head in shame and never let me catch him embarrassing my sport again.

I am the mentor, the brains behind all success. You know pasta-face Bruno used to call me before every title match? I encouraged him, told him how to wrestle. Pasta-face ignored me, punked out, showed no guts, no class, no brains, and why, where was the Captain, did he want the Captain by his side, at the ring, at his arm, at his leg, the Captain, whispering words, showing the way, blazing new trails? No, Bruno punked out, took the credit for my strategy, my inspiration, my courage.

Let the truth be known. I taught Bruno everthing he ever knew and he forgot it. He couldn't do it. Some got it, some don't. I do. I am Captain Lou Albano. If the creeps edit one word out of this column, I'll break their faces. Thank you and good night. □

Brisco & Kiniski vs. Th
JACK BRISCO'S NI
TRIUMPH...AND S





Terry Funk and brother Dory Jr. (above) discuss last minute strategy as they prepare to go into battle with Brisco and Kiniski—an unlikely duo. However unlikely, they click well together (right). It looked as though they'd been teaming for several years. Even so, they have no plans to team up again.

THE CHOICE WAS his to make. Jack Brisco had to choose between the lesser of two evils. It could mean the greatest victory of his life. At the same time, it could be the most despicable action he had ever committed.

On his desk lay a letter from the promoter. In it was the most tempting yet horrifying offer he'd ever seen.

"Gene Kiniski," it read, "has

Jack Brisco won his match against the Funks. Yet, did he lose something far more important by teaming with Gene Kiniski, a man who stands for everything a decent wrestler despises?

PHOTOS BY CHIP MAXWELL

e Funks: GHT OF HAME

A picture no one thought he would ever see (right)—Jack Brisco on the same team with a man he despises, Gene Kiniski. It appears that Jack will take any partner in his quest to rid the world of the Funk family.

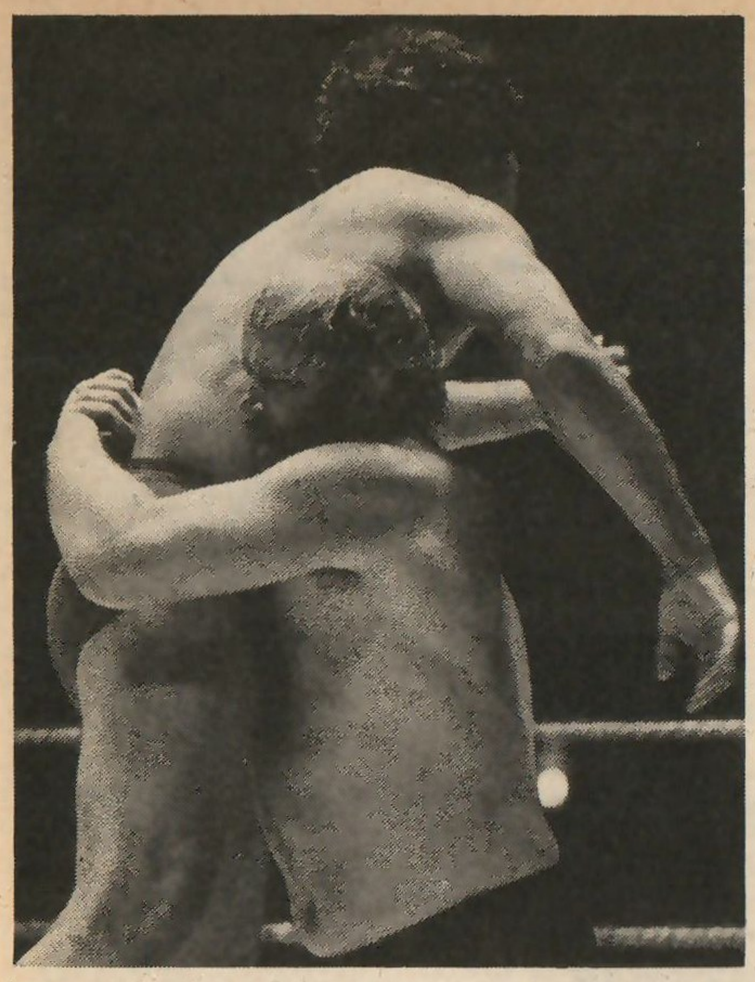
agreed to be your tag team partner against the Funks. If you accept, the match could take place at the end of the month. Please telephone your answer as soon as possible."

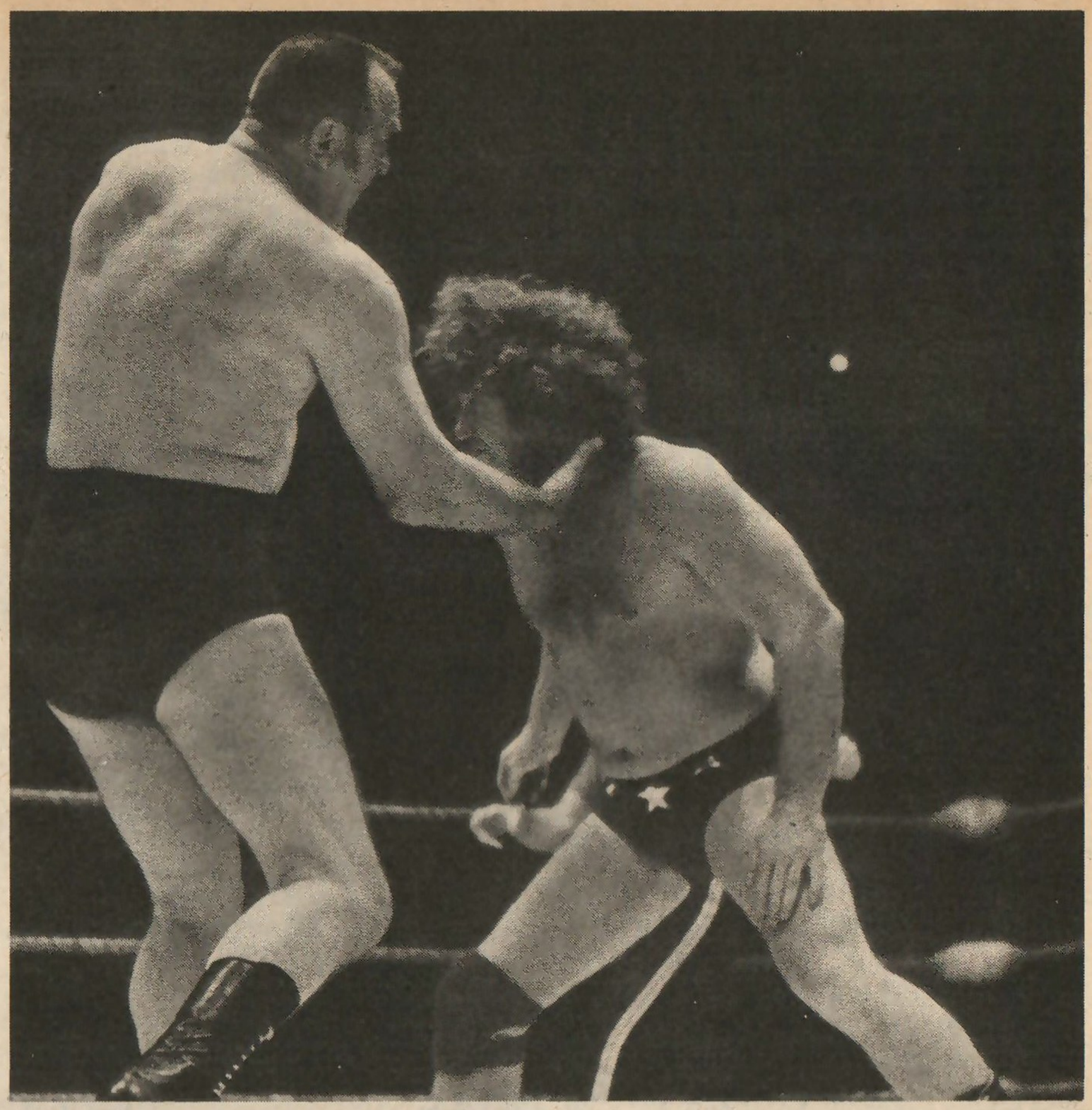
The offer was presented simply, as if it was just a matter of picking up the phone and accepting. There was no mention of Jack's lifelong hatred for Kiniski and everything the man stands for. And there was no mention of the revenge Jack is driven to seek against the Funks.

Kiniski too would be seeking revenge, which is why he tolerated the presence of Brisco on his team. Kiniski still smarts from Dory Funk Jr. taking the NWA title away from him. Gene will do anything to make Dory suffer for this. Kiniski is a cunning veteran; knowing Brisco is the best man to help him slaughter the Funks, he wants Jack.

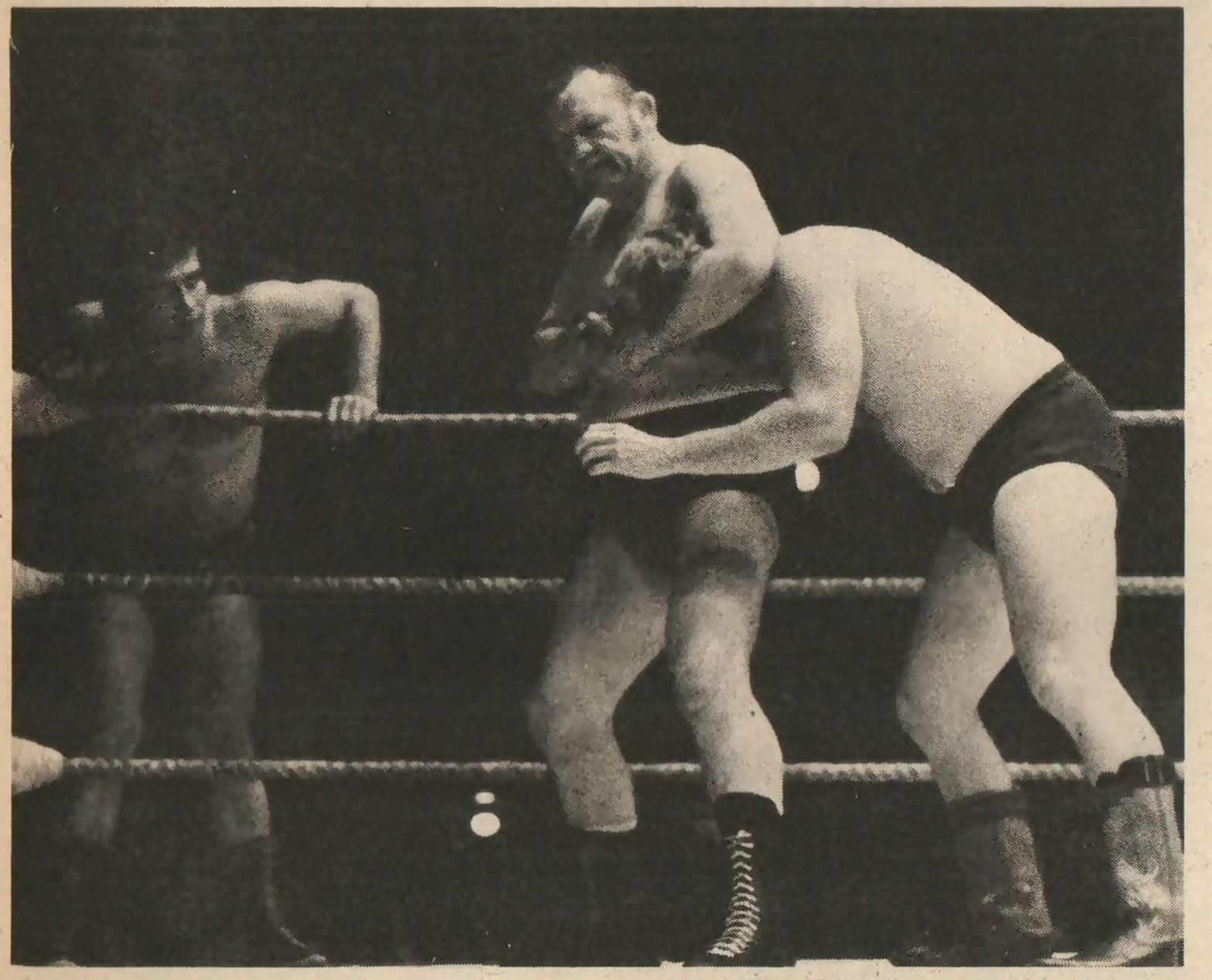
Brisco is also smarting from a loss to a Funk. Terry took Jack's NWA title from him. He wants nothing more than to humiliate both Funks, long his hated enemies. Jack also knows Kiniski is just the right man for the job.

Brisco realizes Gene Kiniski is one of them most ruthless men to ever enter a wrestling arena. Kiniski cheats like other men breathe. Anyone who loves the integrity of scientific wrestling, as Jack does, can only be revolted by Kiniski's tactics. To Jack, teaming with Kiniski would mean condoning Gene's tactics. That's a thought that revolts Jack to the very core of his being.





Dory Jr. tries to make Brisco cry "uncle" (above), but Jack refuses to give in. Kiniski chops Terry (right). Jack has a watchful eye on the action (below) as he awaits a tag from Kiniski. Even though it was a victory for Jack and Kiniski, Brisco felt guilty he teamed with a noted rulebreaker.



Yet, Brisco, as he sat by the phone, couldn't ignore the fact that Kiniski is the perfect man to help him batter the Funks into oblivion. Realistically, if Jack wanted revenge, he could choose no better partner.

Jack had to smile when he realized the match would be made up entirely of men who had held the NWA title. It would be a battle of champions, a gathering of kings unprecedented in wrestling history. It would be an event for the fans, one they'd remember always.

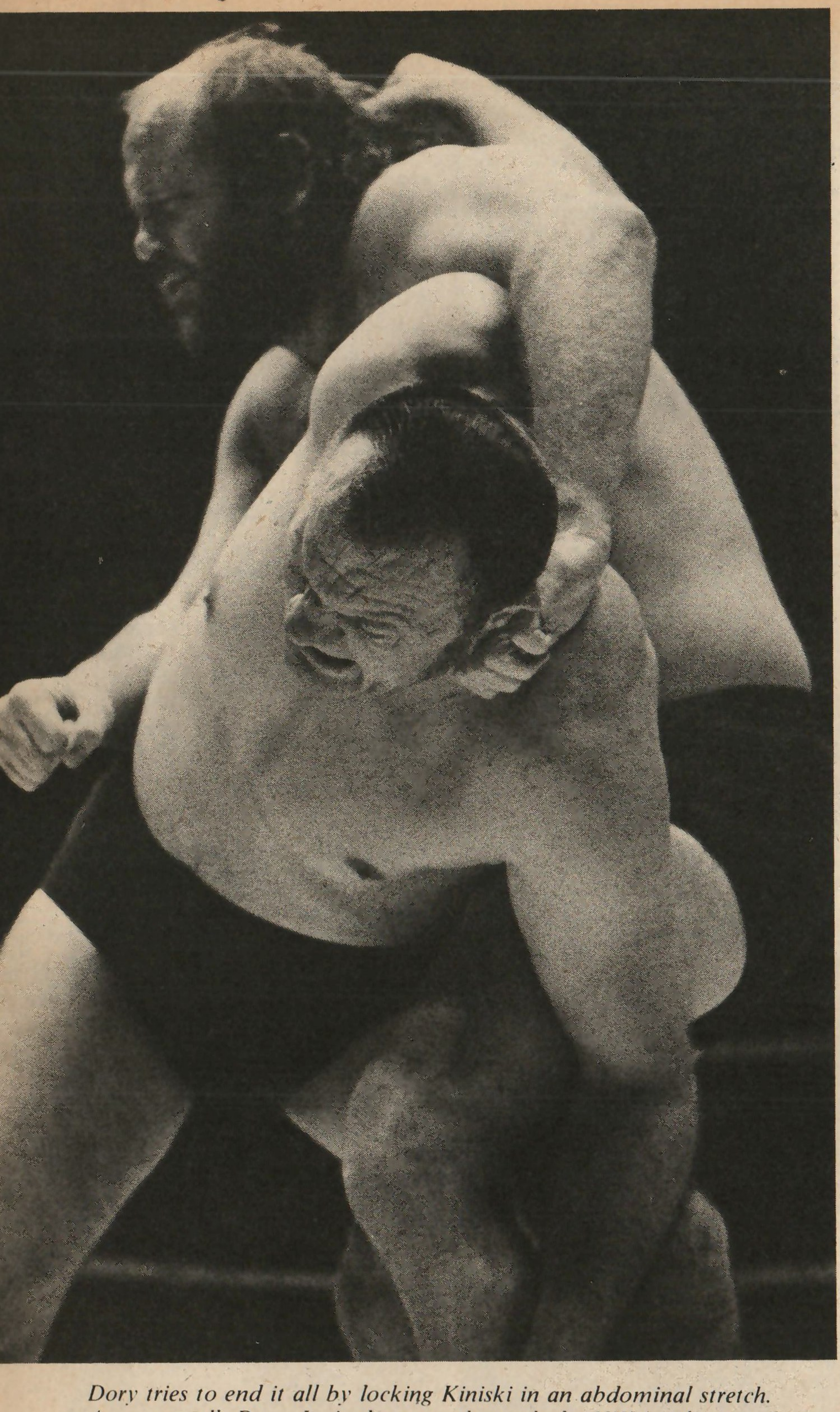
Brisco picked up the phone, then placed it back on the cradle. Did he dare compromise his integrity by teaming with Kiniski? His hand remained on the receiver for more than three minutes before he again picked up the phone. He began to dial the promoter, then hung up. It took Jack more than an hour of indecision before he finally got in contact with the promoter.

After talking with the promoter, Jack dialed Kiniski's number. Brisco couldn't believe he was doing it.

"I accepted the match," was the first thing Jack said after contacting Kiniski, "and we'd better start training. We're both professionals and should be able to work together well. But let's get one thing straight right off the bat: I'm not going in there as rulebreaker."

"Fine," Kiniski replied, "you go your way and I'll go mine. We'll work together and separately, each doing what he does best. There'll be plenty of middle ground for both of us to be happy. All that really counts is destroying the Funks."

Two days later, the men met in the gym for the first time. They were suspicious at first, not quite sure what would happen. However, the men were both great athletes and that common bond took them over



Dory tries to end it all by locking Kiniski in an abdominal stretch. As you recall, Dory Jr. is the man who took the NWA title away from Kiniski in 1969. Ever since then Kiniski has taken any opportunity to get into battle against Dory. Kiniski also hates Terry's guts.

the rough spots. After weeks of training, they were a tight unit, comparable to any team in the world.

They would have to be great to survive, however; they were meeting the Funks. These two brothers have wrestled together since childhood. They could sense each other's moves by instinct. They rarely if ever made mistakes. Luck would never be the reason this pair was defeated.

The night of the match, Brisco was more nervous than usual before a battle. He was worried about the bout and his fans' reaction to his teaming with Kiniski. He was also worried about whether or not he could emerge with honor from this bout.

The fans were puzzled when Brisco marched out into the arena with Kiniski. It was the coldest reception Jack had received in years. The crowd waited to see what would happen.

Even the Funks were curious as to what would happen. When the bell rang, Terry came out and faced Brisco, just as they had on the night Terry took Jack's NWA belt. The two men battled furiously but to a standstill. First, Jack tagged Gene, then Terry did the same to Dory Jr.

Once again, the conqueror and his conquest from a former title match faced each other. This time, however, Kiniski managed to get an advantage. Before Dory could counter this overwhelming attack, the Funks were one fall behind.

For the second fall, Brisco once again tackled Terry. Funk waded in and pounded Jack right on the jaw. Jack went spinning and barely managed to tag Kiniski. Gene then went after Funk.

While Funk loves a brawl, he knows better than to be reckless when one fall from defeat. He cautiously grappled against this most dangerous of opponents. Then, when he felt Kiniski was in a position to fall to Dory, he tagged out.

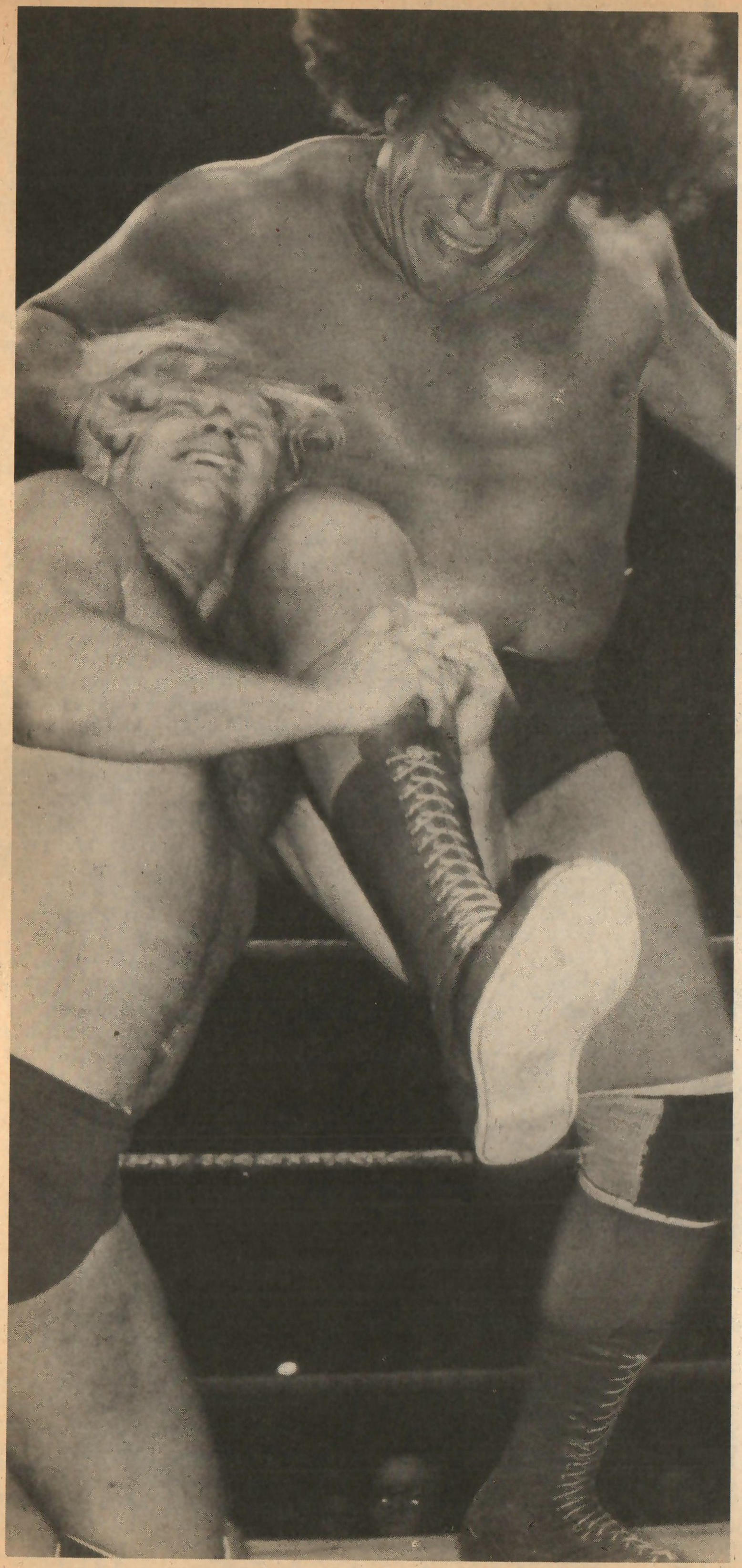
It was a good idea unless you're wrestling against Gene Kiniski. The giant grappler got Dory near his corner. Then he summoned Brisco.

"Let's get him!" Kiniski shouted to Brisco.

Jack leaned over the rope and started to work on Funk. Kiniski savaged Funk while Jack held him in tow. Few men could torture another human being like Kiniski can. Funk fell to the canvas and the match was over. Jack Brisco and Gene Kiniski had massacred the Funks!

Yet, Jack knew he'd been a party to one of the most brutal beatings a man could suffer. Even a hated enemy doesn't deserve to receive a Kiniski slaughtering. Jack Brisco knew he had made Kiniski's destruction of Dory Funk Jr. possible.

Jack had won. Yet, he couldn't help but feel it was a hollow victory. □



NICK BOCKWINKEL HAS spent many sleepless nights in the past few months of his AWA title reign. The doubts nagged at him. He tossed and turned and saw images of his fellow wrestlers laughing at him. His mind could not get off the numerous articles in various publications predicting his demise.

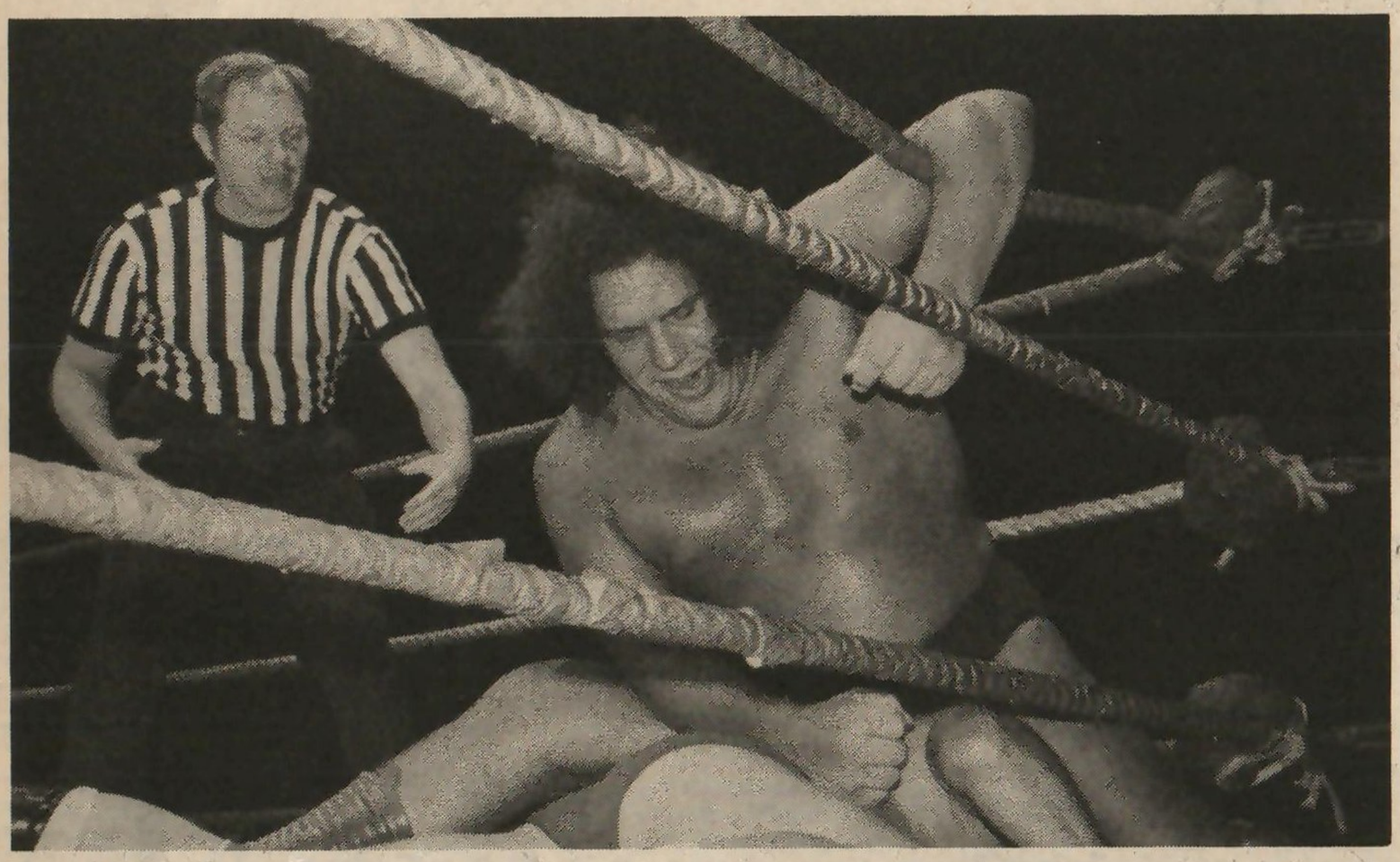
HOW ANDRE THE GIANT REU

Publicly, Bockwinkel denies that he is losing his grasp on the title. But inside, he knows differently. He knows that his career began to slide as soon as his long-time manager Bobby Heenan was suspended from the AWA for assaulting its president, Stanley Blackburn.

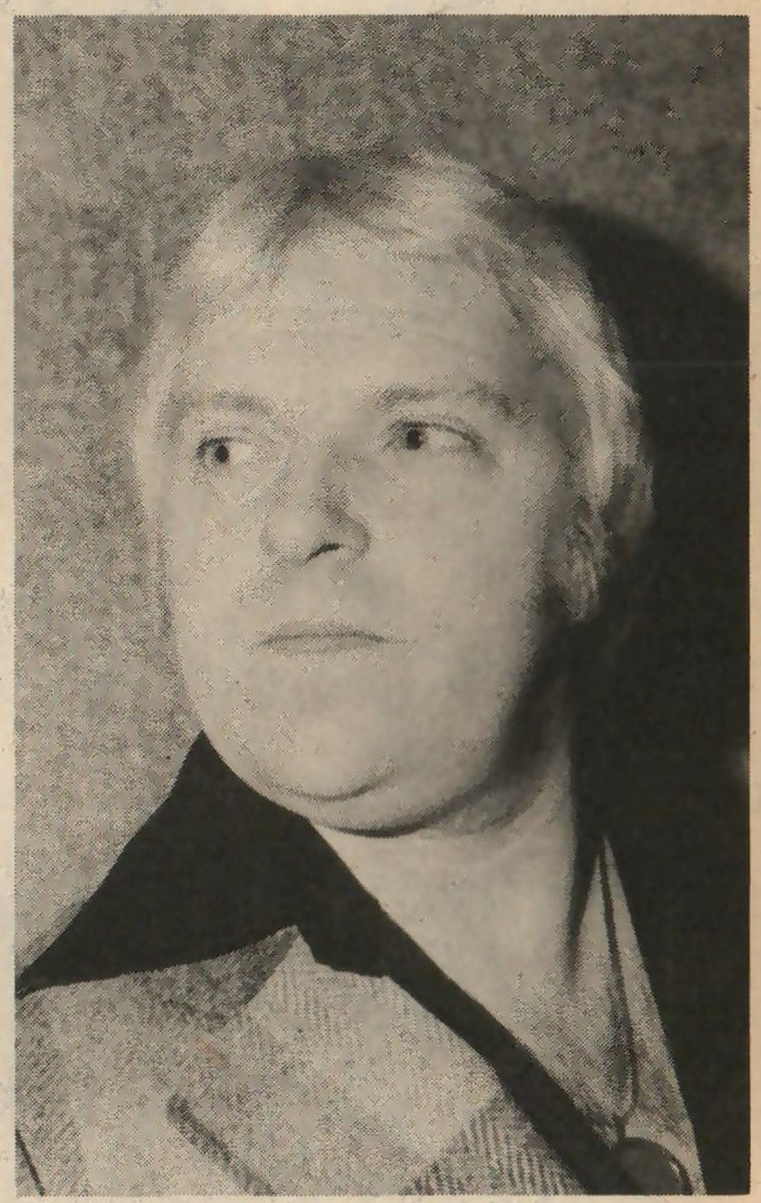
Publicly, Bockwinkel down-played the loss of Heenan. In interviews, he minimized Heenan's contribution. But inside, he knew that he was only half as great without his manager.

Bockwinkel tossed and turned. A particularly grueling evening was behind him. He was in considerable pain but that was not the reason he couldn't sleep. He couldn't sleep

Common hatred is a great unifying force. Since Bobby Heenan's untimely departure from the AWA, he and Nick Bockwinkel have wrestled together infrequently. But the sight of Andre the Giant, a common foe, brought them together

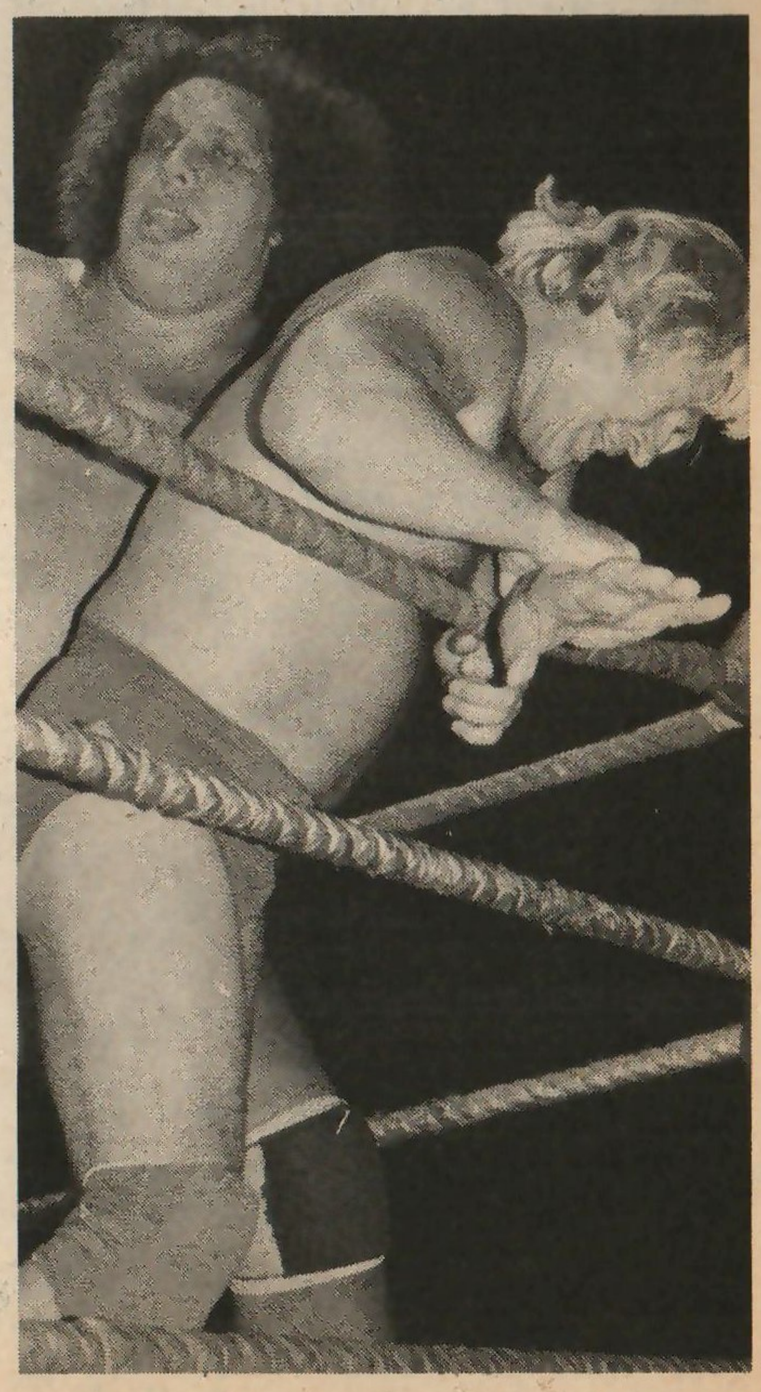


Andre the Giant pounds AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel as he lays near the ropes. Bockwinkel retained his title, but did a lot of thinking after the match. Arranging Bobby Heenan's return could be his only chance of remaining champion.



Nick Bockwinkel's title defenses have become more difficult since the departure of Bobby Heenan (above). Andre asks for and receives the fans' support as he punishes the champion.

NITED BOCKWINKEL AND HEENAN



because, in his mind, he had failed a very important test.

Bockwinkel put his title on the line against the world's largest wrestler, Andre the Giant. He felt if he could win decisively, he could dispel all doubts about where his career was headed. He didn't win decisively. He retained his title but he also received one of the worst poundings of his life.

He would not talk to the press afterwards. All could see that he was not content to get away with his belt. He knew it was just a matter of time.

Bockwinkel reached for the phone. It was 3 a.m. He assumed Heenan would still be awake, and he was. "What's the matter, Nick?" Heenan said worriedly. "Come on champ. You're always in bed before midnight. What's wrong?"

Bockwinkel was silent, momentarily searching for the

(Continued on page 62)

Mil Mascaras' Heartbreaking Claim:

"IT'S MY FAULT RIVERA TURNED BAD!"

PHOTOS BY THEO EHRET

IT WAS TOO gruesome for Mil Mascaras to believe.

"How could I think that was truth?" Mil said sadly.

For two years, Mascaras had heard the stories. He heard about Victor Rivera and his sordid secrets, but he wouldn't accept them.

"No, they had to be false," Mil insisted.

Who could blame Mascaras? He had helped Rivera early in his career. He had given him tips, showed him the little tricks which can mean the difference between glorious victory or bloody defeat. He had nurtured him, taken him out to dinner, helped him with his English. In short, Mascaras was like a big brother to Victor Rivera.

Now this.

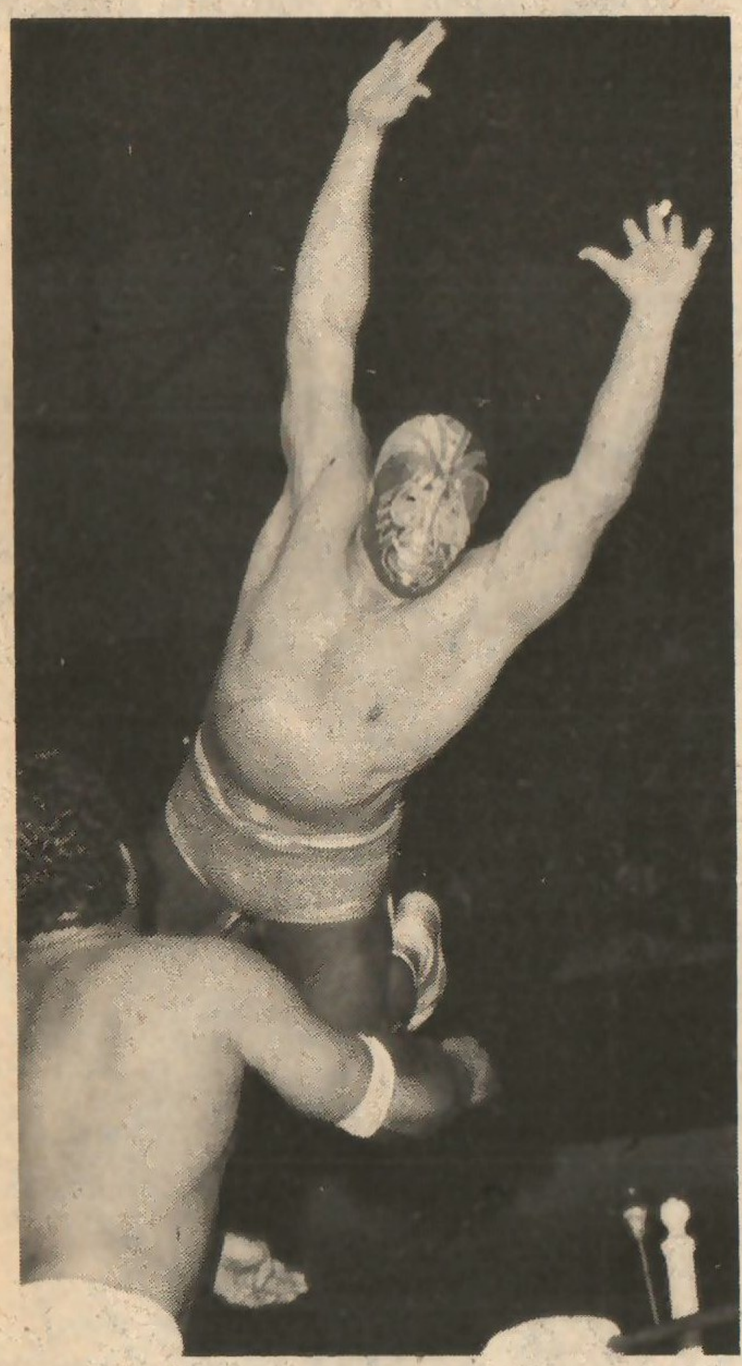
"It's my fault Victor Rivera turned bad," wailed Mascaras, his huge shoulders trembling. "I should have done something when he first started turning. Then, I could have made a difference. It is much too late now. It is all my fault."

Mascaras recalls the first time he heard about Victor Rivera's rulebreaking.

"I had just completed an extremely difficult, painful bout against a twisted, demented man," recalled Mil, his voice soft. "I was recuperating in my dressing room, trying to unwind from the turmoil a match creates.

"Tension and strain were finally disappearing from my mind and body. I looked forward to a good meal and talk with fine friends. Then an old friend comes into my locker. He is nervous, almost ashen," Mascaras said, stopping to firm his voice. "I could tell my friend wanted to say something very important, but he didn't have the courage. After assuring him

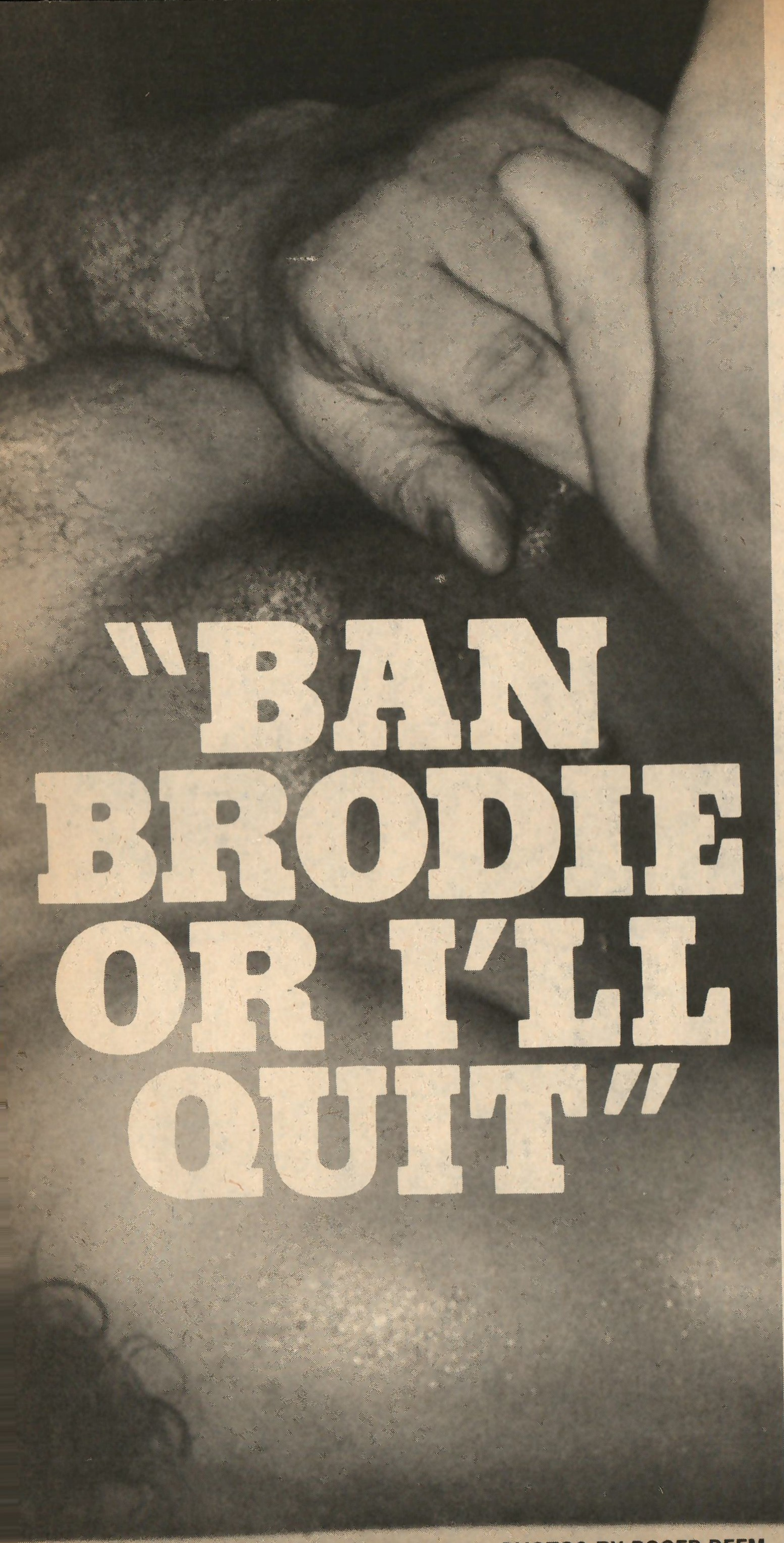
(Continued on page 56)



Opposite left: A bloodied Victor Rivera works over Mil Mascaras outside the ring. Above: Mascaras' eyes are fixed on his target as he flies from the turnbuckles. Right: Mil shoves the referee to safety as Rivera swing a chair.

Years ago, Mil Mascaras demonstrated his great kindness by befriending a young wrestler named Victor Rivera. Mil nurtured Rivera, showed him the tricks, the moves, the game. For his decency, Mascaras was rewarded with betrayal. And he blamed himself for that very betrayal!

ANDRE'S VOW:



"BAN BRODIE OR I'LL QUIT"

PHOTOS BY ROGER DEEM

EVERYONE ADMITS IT is a disgrace. Everyone blames someone else. Andre the Giant hurts too much to care.

The facts are simple:

Bruiser Brodie entered the ring with a bandage wrapped around his right hand. His opponent, Andre, demanded the bandage be checked, as it bulged suspiciously, apparently concealing a steal bar. The referee ignored Andre's pleas. The officials sitting ringside ignored Andre's pleas. The match wasn't three minutes old when Brodie smashed Andre in the side of the head. Andre went down.

Later, it would be discovered Andre had a concussion. A lesser man would have stayed on the canvas and accepted defeat. Andre is driven by a courage few men can

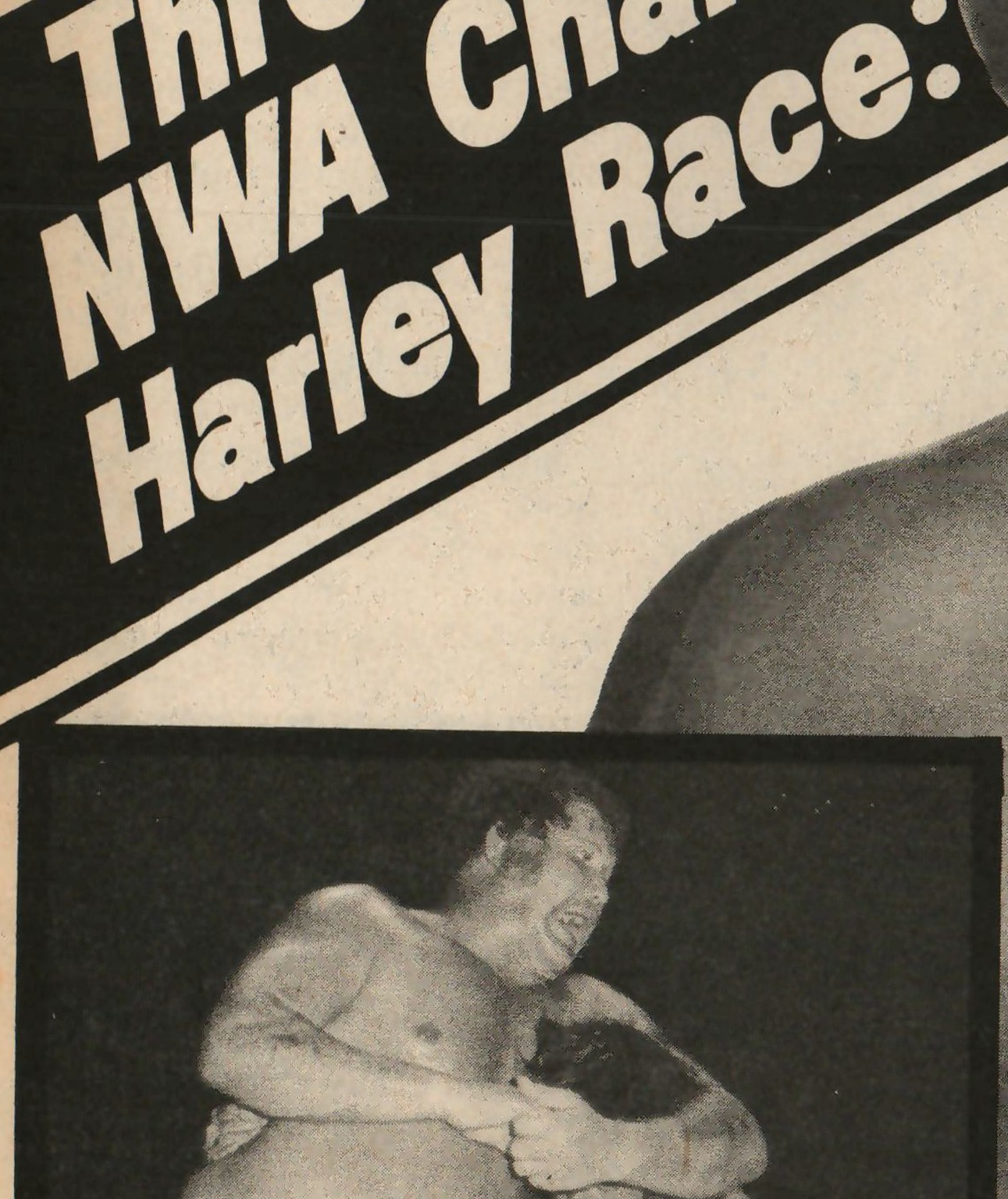
It takes a lot for Andre the Giant to lose his temper. A humble and decent man, Andre has swallowed more than most men and has always come back with a smile. Not this time. Bruiser Brodie has rubbed Andre raw and the Giant is growling

understand. His head throbbing, his body weak, his legs wobbly, Andre somehow managed to struggle back. Brodie, looking as if a ghost was attacking him, stood stunned. After all, a human being is knocked unconscious from a loaded punch.

Before Brodie could recover his senses, Andre was upon him. The Giant knew he had enough strength for maybe two minutes more. He used those precious

(Continued on page 54)

Three-Time NWA Champion Harley Race:



Harley Race grabs Les Thornton in a headlock (opposite left) and tries to escape the same hold by The Spoiler (above).

WILL HISTORY SAY HE'S THE GREATEST?

HARLEY RACE DOES not have a lot of friends among his peers in the wrestling game. He's a loner. Champions often are. Traveling as he does, there simply is no time for the man to get to know anyone on a personal basis.

But Harley cares very much what people think of him. He wants to make a good impression on those who see him wrestle. He wants most of all for everyone to remember him as a great wrestler—perhaps the greatest of all time—after he retires.

Will history say he's the greatest?

Some believe it will.

• "There is no doubt," said Mr. Hatori, a Florida manager. "I've been around for a long, long time. I've been to every part of the world. And believe me, Harley is something special. He defends his title with class I've never seen in any other champion. And I've seen a few."

• "He's one of the toughest men alive," said veteran Ray Stevens. "Not just physically, but mentally. To come back and win the title three times, you've got to have that extra drive. Like any champion, he thought about retiring each time he lost the title. But he didn't. He hung tough and he got the title back. I'd say he's the Muhammad Ali of wrestling. And he will certainly be remembered as the greatest."

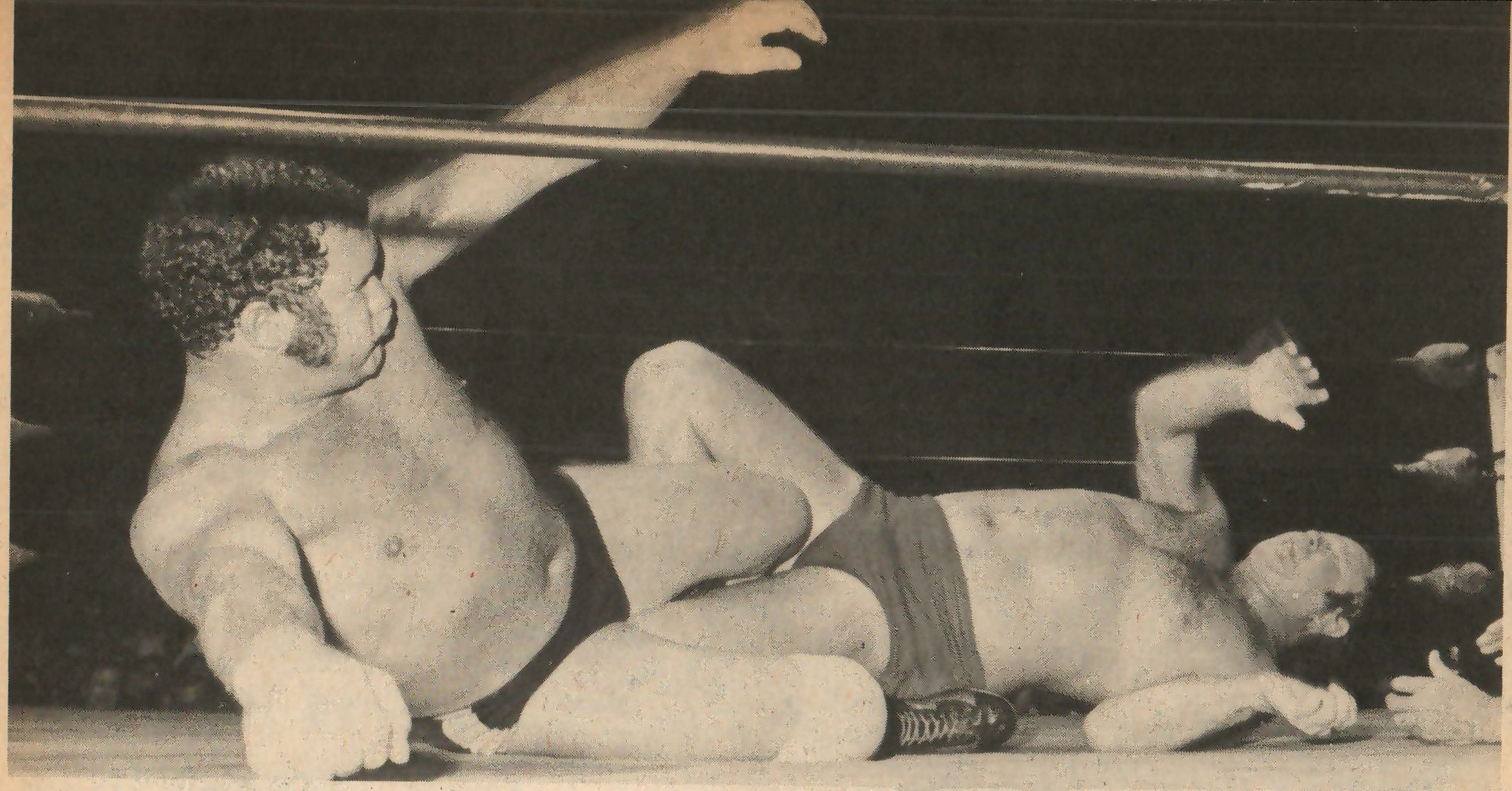
• "I was the greatest of all time," said Buddy Rogers, former NWA and WWF heavyweight champion. "Everybody knows that. But here's a man who is very similar to me. He's just a shade below me in courage and talent. Because of myself, he'll never be remembered as the greatest. But by me making this statement, he has a good chance to be remembered as number two."

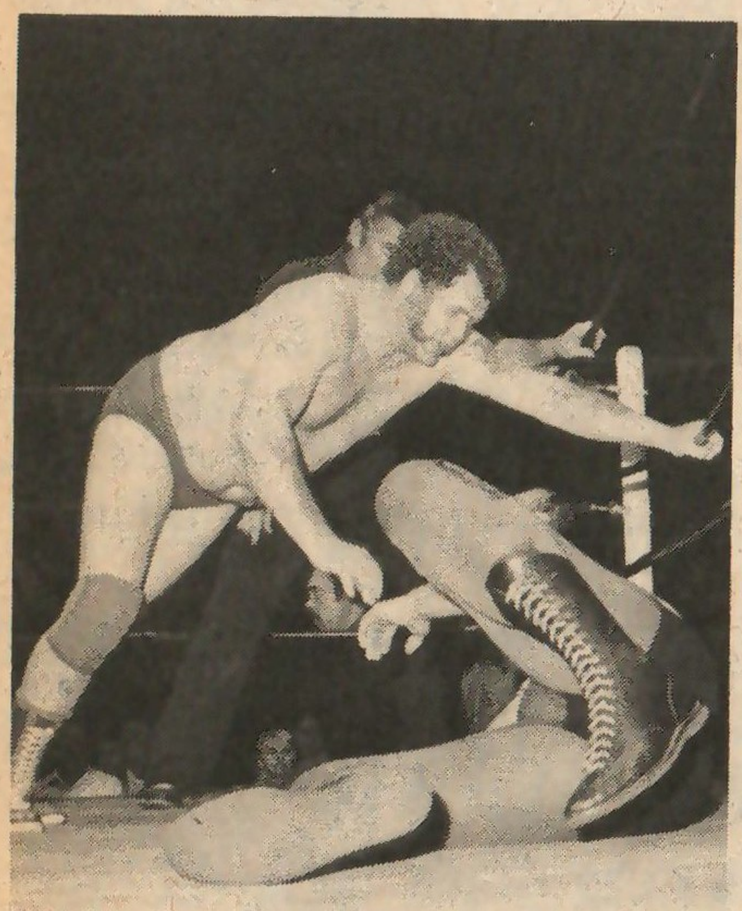
***

Will history say he's the greatest?

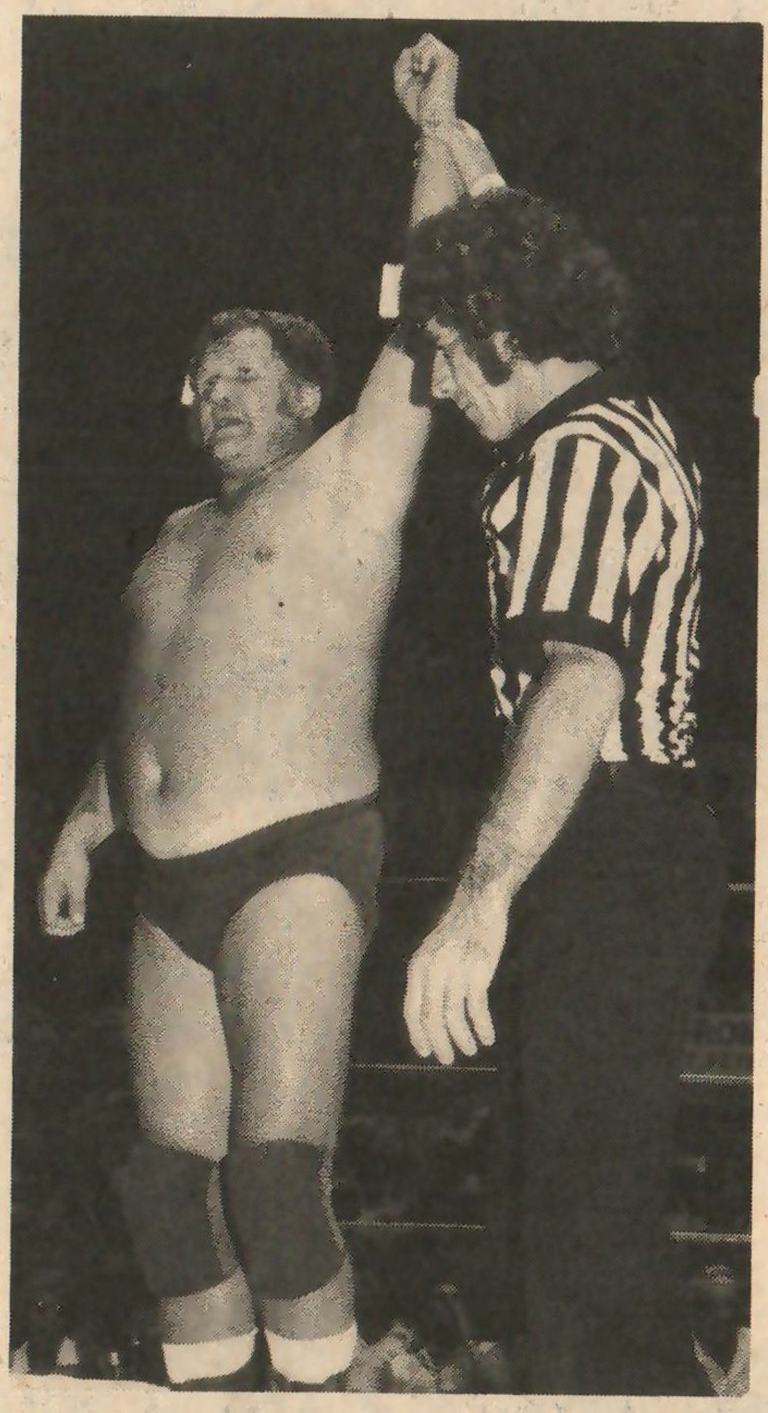
Some believe it will not.

How will history remember Harley Race? He's been NWA champion three times. He's beaten the best wrestlers of his time. He's endured the most grueling schedule of any champion in the history of the sport. Will he be remembered as the greatest of the great? The opinions vary





Above: Dory Funk Jr. agonizes in Race's figure-four leglock. Left: Harley works over a fallen Les Thornton. Below: "Winner and still champion, Harley Race."



• "Don't make me laugh," said Terry Funk. "Race was a has-been from the time the doctor slapped him on the rear. Hell, the belt doesn't even belong to him! Everyone knows who it rightfully belongs to. And that's Terry Funk, the greatest wrestler who ever lived. That is what history will show."

• "It's sort of a touchy question for me," said Dusty Rhodes smilingly. "I'll try to be impartial. There is no question that Race is good. He's a superstar. You have to be to hold the belt as long and as often as he has. But when I think of the greatest of all time, three names come to mind—Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, and Bruno Sammartino. To me, they outclass Race in every respect. They are the ones who will be remembered."

• "Harley Race is a man to be respected," said Jack Brisco, another former NWA champion. "He is, after all, the champion. But there is a major factor that tarnishes his record. Harley has always been known to protect his championship by intentionally getting himself disqualified. What kind of a champion does that? To me, that overshadows his accomplishments. Sure Harley will be long remembered. But it will not be for being a great champion."

***

Harley Race rolled his eyes and smiled. He patiently listened to the negative responses along with the positive. He is used to criticism and he is able to deal with it. "Hey," he said, "those guys are entitled to their opinions. But they really shouldn't be puttin' me down. I've beat them all a number of times. It would be to their advantage to play me up as big as possible." The smile left his face.

"It does bother me some, though," he continued. "What do I have to do for these guys to recognize where my place should be in history? But then again what do I care? These guys aren't the historians. They aren't the people that I want to remember me as the greatest. Deep down they know, anyway." □

Gracious winners and sore losers surround the madcap world of professional wrestling. But within the crazy maze that is Dick Slater's mind, a sharp, unrelenting frustration eats away at his soul and discolors his cruel post-match words

PHOTOS BY PAUL BAUMAN

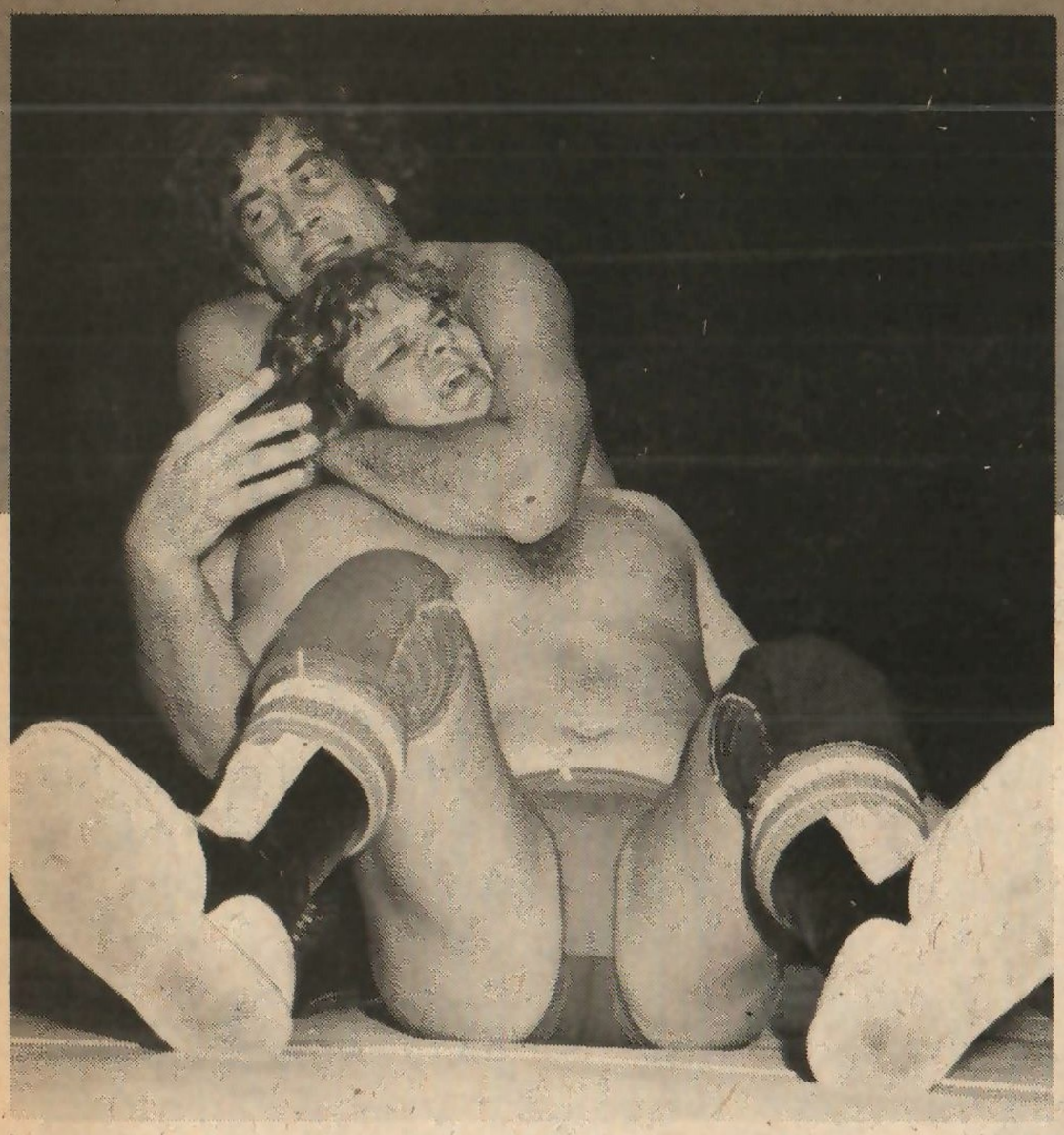
THE TWO DRESSING rooms were both sweaty, humid and uncomfortable with a metallic, unpleasant atmosphere. But the two inhabitants created two distinct moods. In one crowded, busy room was a very mellow man who had just given total concentration and effort in a grueling wrestling match. Curious reporters were scurrying about, quizzing and probing. The object of their attention was a respected grappler and former champion. His name is Jack Brisco.

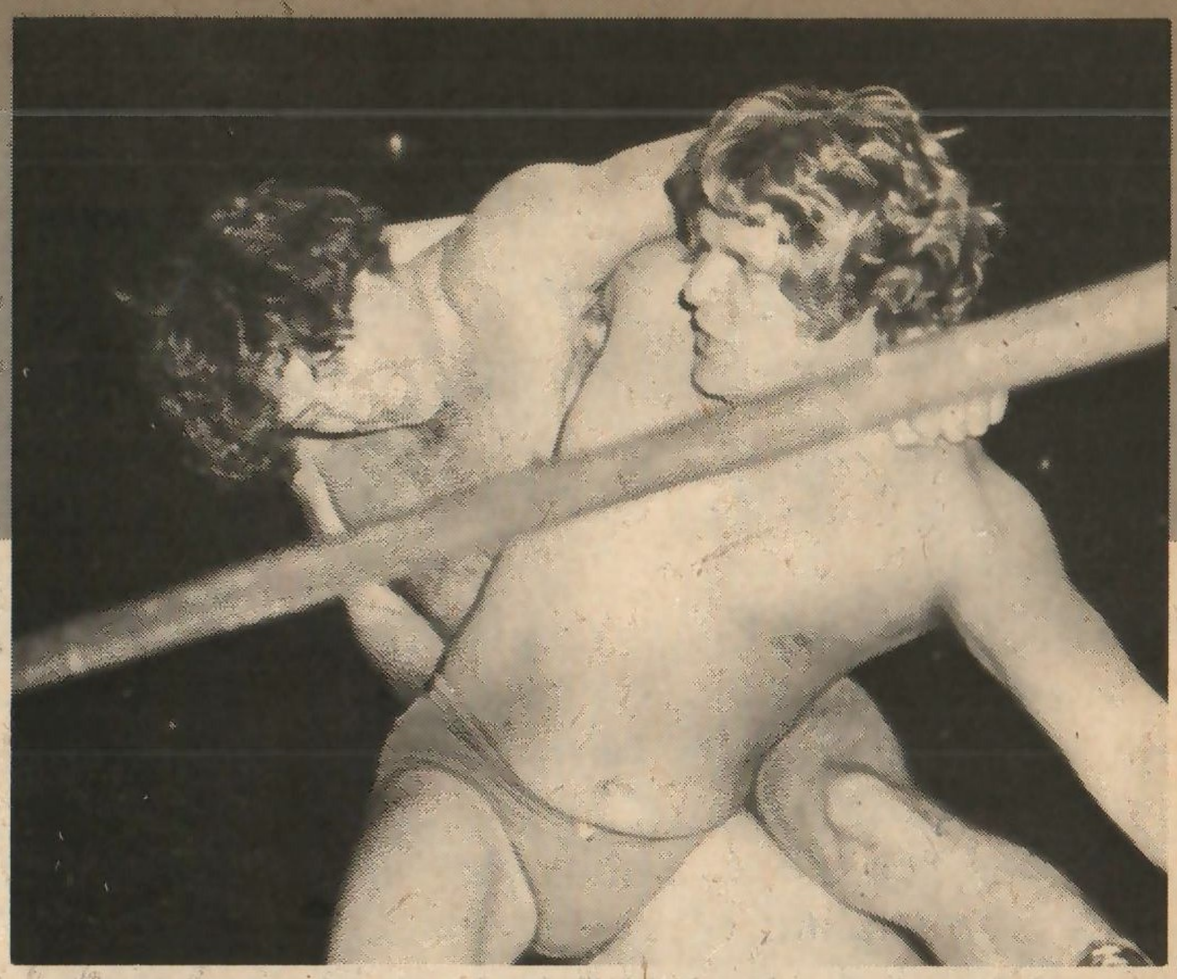
In the other dressing room, a burly hard-looking man began to dry the shower droplets off his body with a towel. The room was almost empty. Only two reporters hesitantly removed pencils and pads from the back pockets of their trousers. They asked the wrestler basic questions about the match he had just participated in. The grappler, a surly, rugged individual named Dick Slater, responded with short, unpleasant rulebreaker cliches. Then suddenly, he opened his sneaky eyes very wide and his voice rose considerably in audible count.

"Let me tell you about that man I just wrestled—Jack Brisco," Slater began. "It's a sad reflection on my sport that he

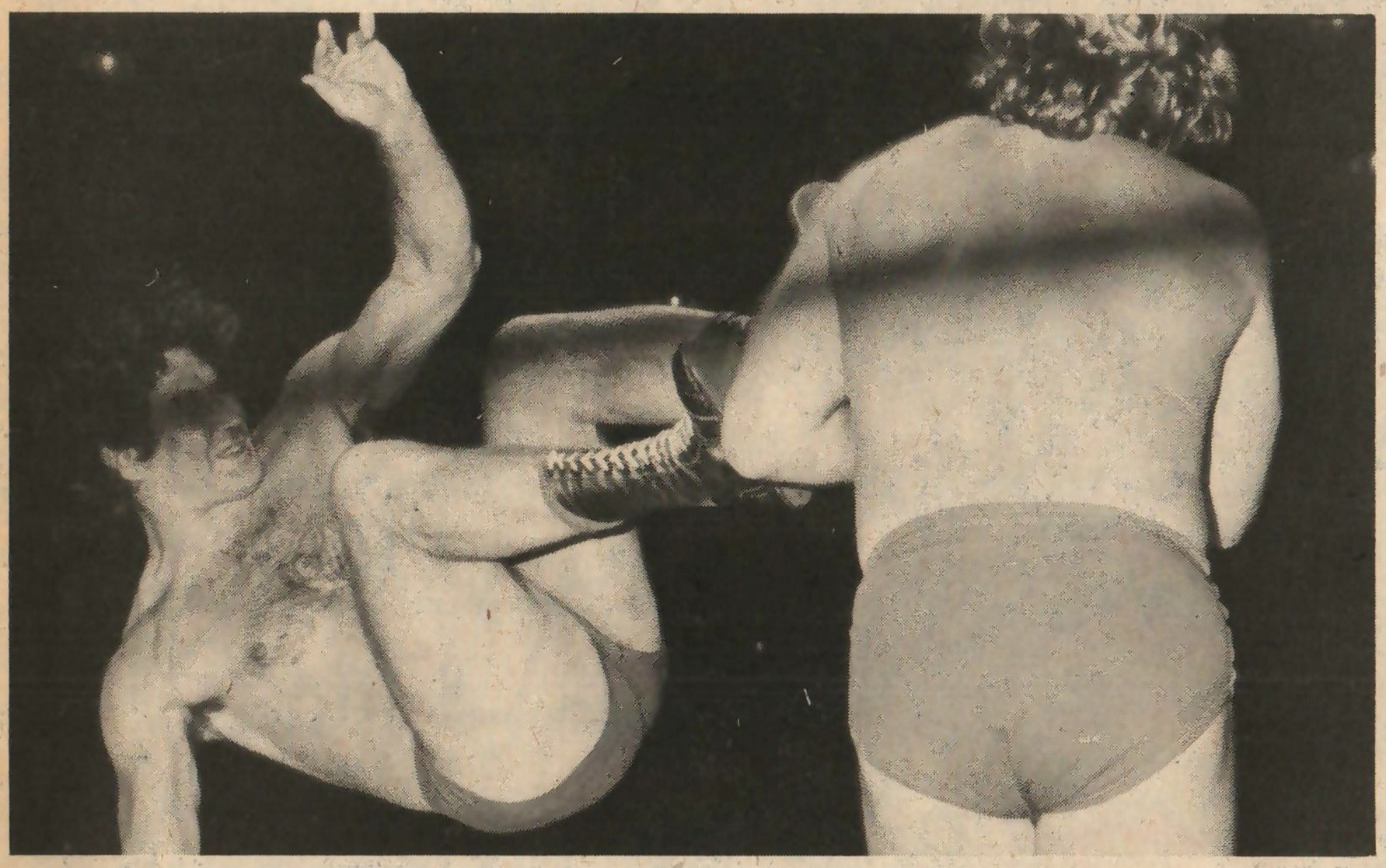
Dick Slater has Jack Brisco in a punishing chinlock. Is Slater jealous that Brisco is former NWA champion?

DICK SLATER: "HOW COULD BRISCO EVER HAVE BEEN CHAMPION?"





Slater is on the mat and Brisco has a clear advantage (left). Slater is about to hiproll a stunned Brisco (above). While Slater is a rugged competitor, Brisco has a definite advantage in skills. Jack applies a flying dropkick (below left).

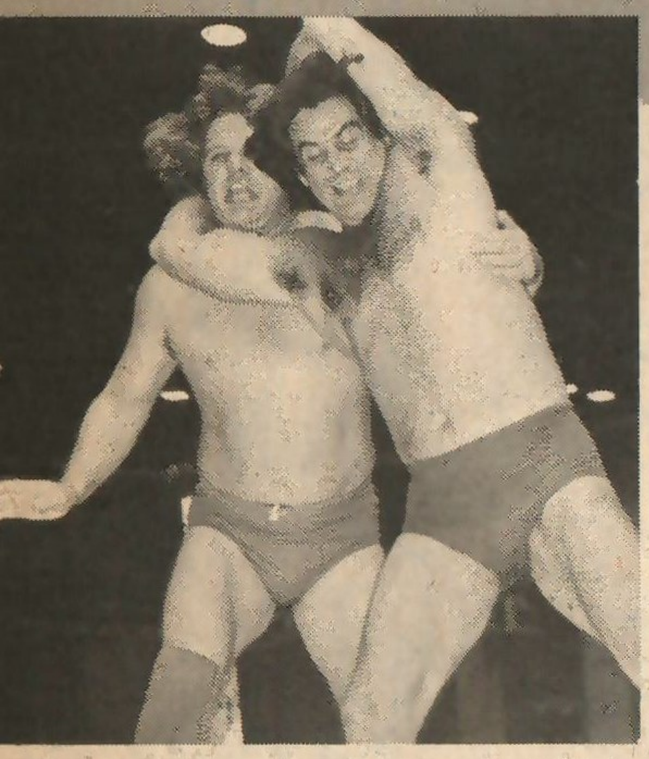


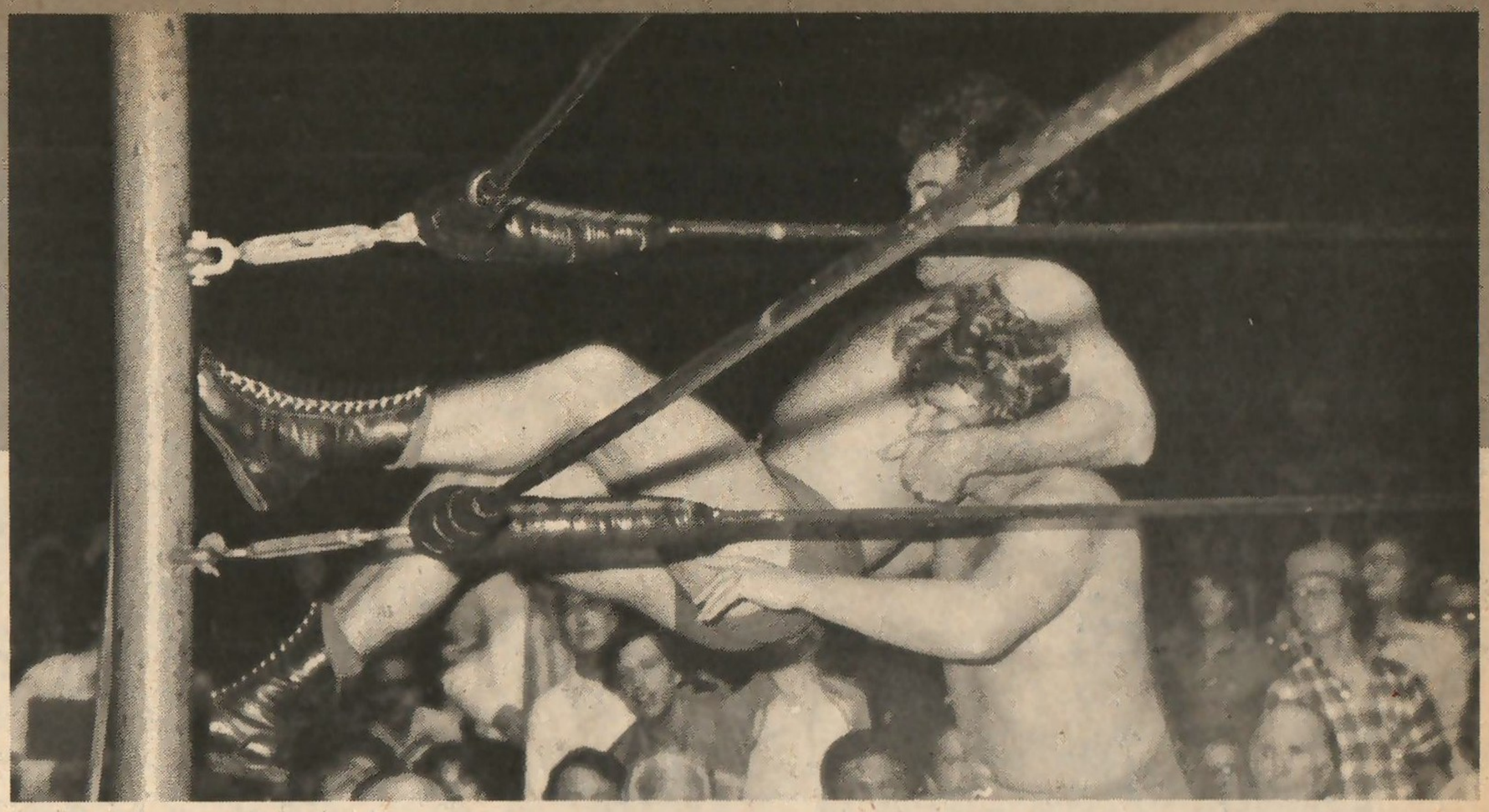
was ever champion of anything. The NWA, one of the most respected institutions in our great country, was led and represented by that clod! Damn, from what I've seen in first-hand situations, Brisco couldn't be the champion of the garbageman's wrestling association. He's old, stupid, talentless and lazy. How could Brisco ever have been champion?"

Your usual rulebreaker nonsense, right? Most likely. But digging beneath the surface, why does a young, successful rulebreaker like Slater have to condemn Brisco with such vengeance and treachery? The reason is obvious. Dick Slater may make lots of money. He may win the majority of his matches. But he has never been NWA champion. For this, Brisco must be the target of an endless stream of insults and criticism.

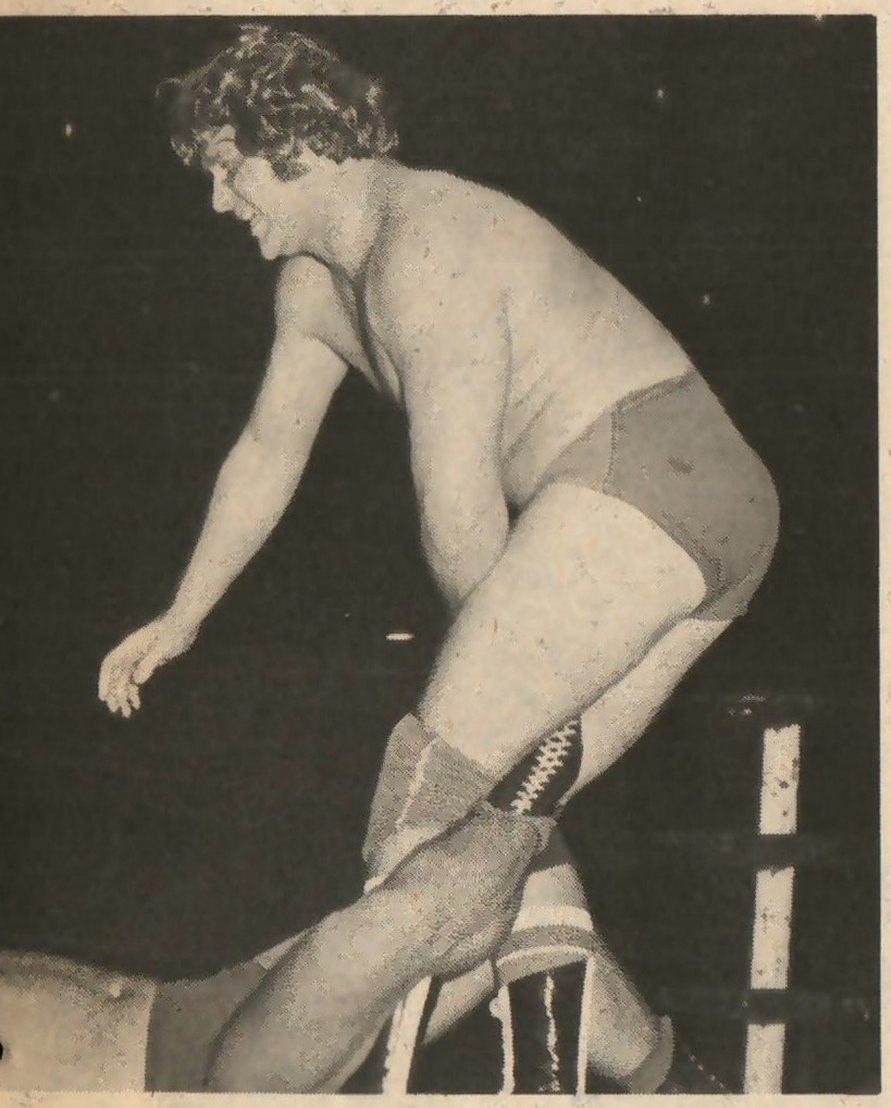
"What are you talking about?" Slater asked. "Sure I've never been NWA champion. And you want to know why? Do you want to know the real reason? Do you? Well let me tell you. It's quite simple. As a matter of fact, it's so simple that I'll let you figure it out for yourself. Why should I answer such ridiculous questions? Now get out of my dressing room with that sad pencil and pad and don't come back or you'll be eating lead for dinner. Do I come barging into your office and bother you while you're typing your ignorant stories?"

Fortunately, Jack Brisco not only wrestles like a champion, but he behaves like a champion





Slater is about to make an unscheduled trip to the canvas, courtesy of Jack Brisco (left). Slater enjoys the hectic action outside the ring and carries Brisco with him (above). Brisco begs for mercy as Slater applies a rare scientific leglock (below left). Brisco is airborn and Slater is dazed (below).



as well. His dressing room was a much more comfortable place to be.

"Gentlemen of the working press, let me begin by saying what honor and pleasure it is to talk to you after such a tough, demanding match against Mr. Slater," Brisco said. "I'm sure those of you who have been to Slater's dressing room have heard his usual post-match monologue about how I can't wrestle out of a Glad-bag, how my family proves that man evolved from the apes and how my two championship reigns were a mirage, illusion and an example of black magic."

The journalists in the room released much of the tension with a hearty laugh. Many were still chuckling as Brisco continued.

"Well gentlemen, I feel sorry for Dick Slater. I feel sorry for his parents, his friends and for his neighbors. His wrestling sickens me, but it is predictable, because generally professional wrestlers extend their personalities in the squared circle. He is a deranged youngster who has been badly misled in his life.

"Slater will never be a champion because he doesn't have what it takes here and here." Brisco pointed to his head and his chest. "I guess I'll keep wrestling him because the fans want to see the bout, but don't expect me to invite him to my Fourth of July party. That is all, gentlemen."

Jack Brisco. A reporter's dream. And a disturbing reality to Dick Slater, a wrestler who comes in last in the human race. □

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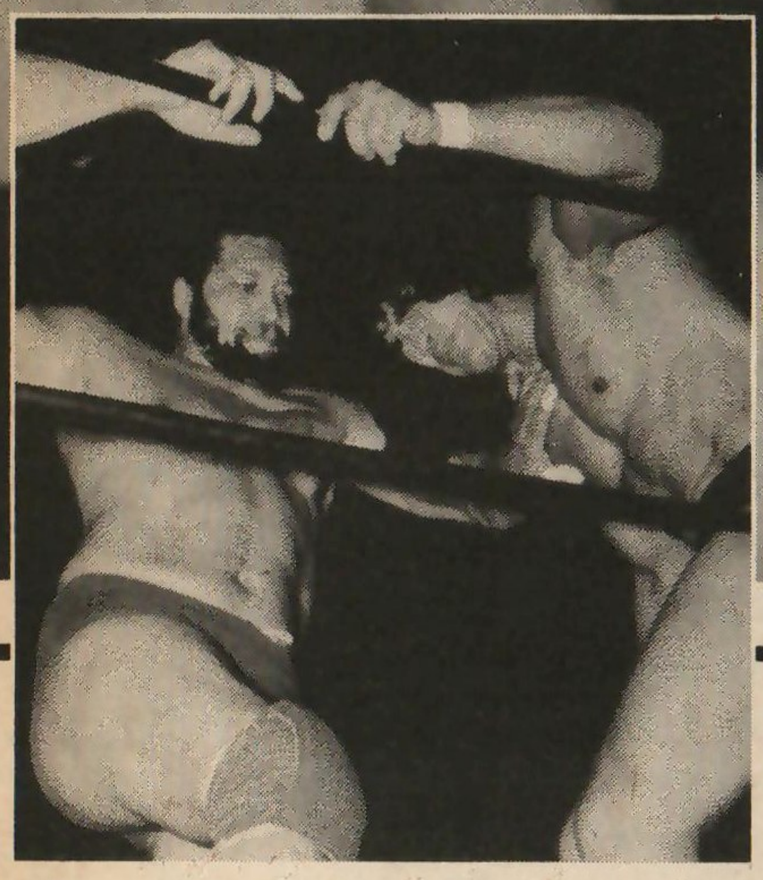
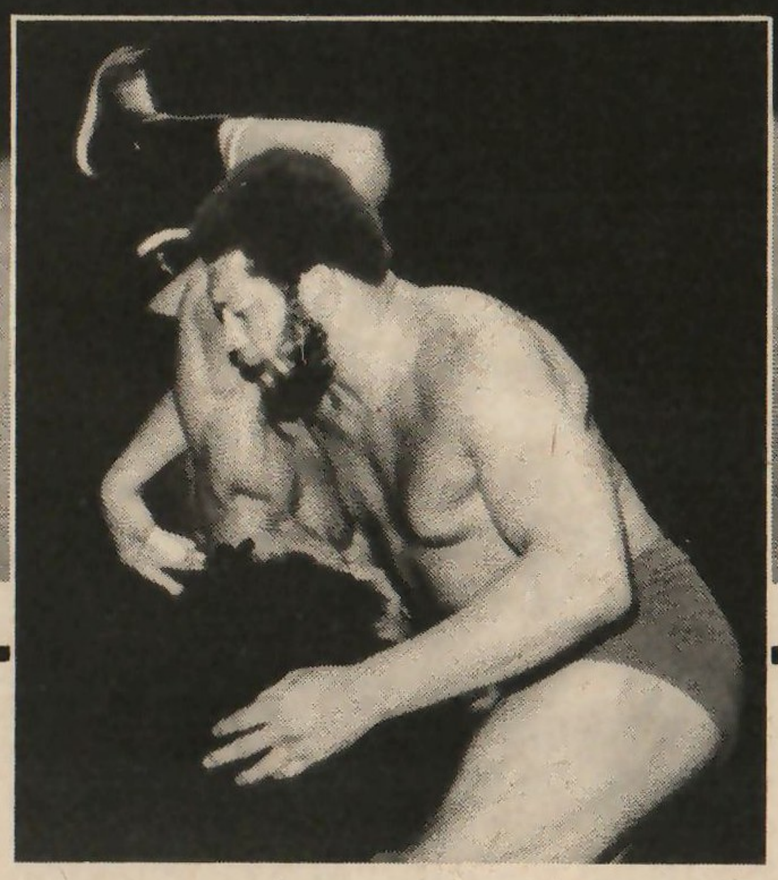
PHOTOS BY BILL APTER





HOW MANY FEUDS can one man handle before it becomes too many? That is the current question raging across the furrowed brow of professional wrestling.

The young man is Rick Steamboat. He is ensnared in a brutal, potentially deadly feud with United States heavyweight champion Ric Flair. Fans and press have called upon Steamboat to escape the vicious battle.

"I must beat Ric Flair," Steamboat said icily.

Wrestling Flair on a regular basis is enough for any man. Now Steamboat has taken on a

A NEW-- D DEADLY--FEUD RICK STEAMBOAT

The sinister face of Ric Flair may never leave the memory of Rick Steamboat. But just as millions of fans scream for Steamboat to forget Flair, the menacing figure of the "Big Cat," Ernie Ladd, enters the scene

new and deadly feud.

Ernie Ladd. The Big Cat with the Big Mouth. The master at concealing foreign objects inside his trunks.

Color this man a dangerous gray.

The genesis of the feud occurred in a recent bout in Greensboro, North Carolina. Allow Omar Johnston, long-time observer of the Carolina wrestling circuit, to describe what happened.

"Ladd tried to trip Steamboat and he lost his balance. Ladd stumbled a little and tried to right himself, but Rick was all over him," recalled Johnston.

"Steamboat got Ladd into a rough, nearly unbreakable hold in the far corner. It looked like curtains for the Big Cat. All of a sudden, Ladd reached into his trunks. Anyone who knows Ernie Ladd knows what he

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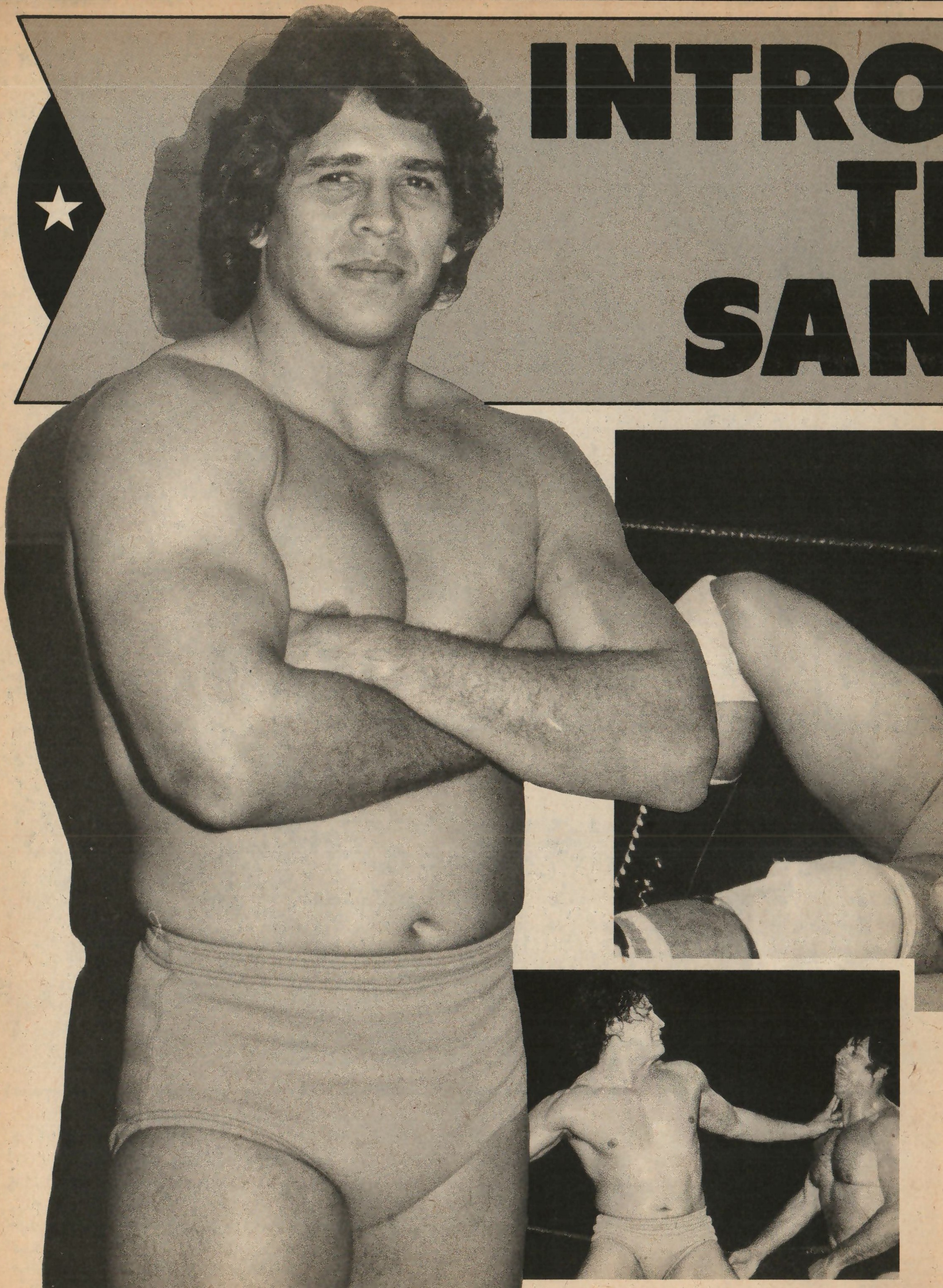

DUCING TO TANA

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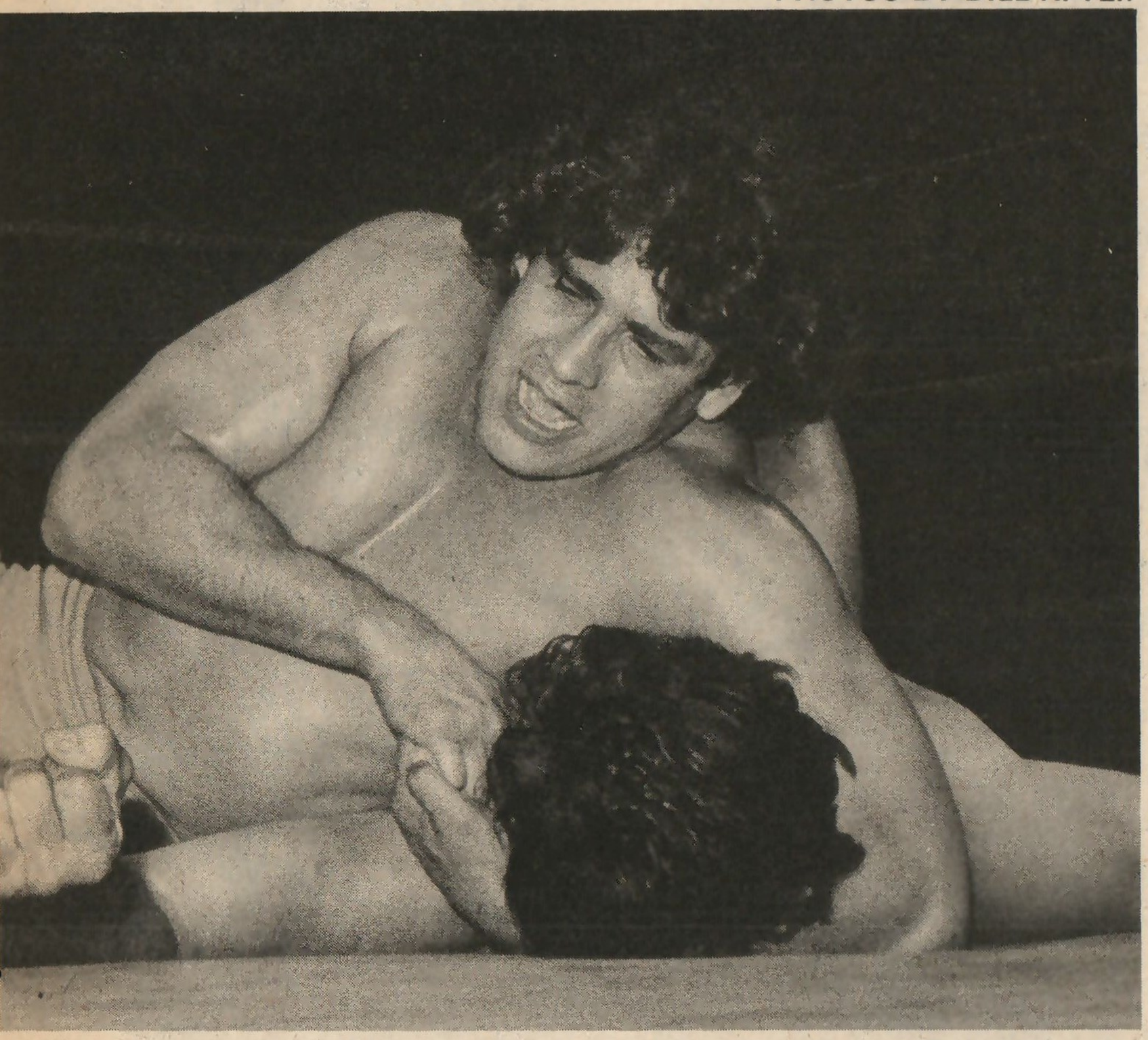


A newcomer to the WWF, Tito Santana is a rugged, exciting young grappler. Against the tough rulebreaking methods of Baron Scicluna, Tito was splendid. He applies an effective headlock (above), and brawls when necessary (left). Being Mexican, Tito's idol is Mil Mascaras.

TITO SANTANA REPRESENTS the new breed of WWF wrestlers. With Steve Travis, Ted DiBiase and others, they are the new kids on the block.

They are talented kids. Santana is loyal to that reputation.

"It's hard coming into a new federation," Santana said. "Everyone is suspicious of you and wants to knock your block off. But I've kept my mouth shut and haven't made any enemies. Too many, anyway."

A graduate of West Texas State, Santana was trained by that illustrious family, the Funks.

"They were great to me, showing me all the fine points of wrestling, the subtle and not-so-subtle," said Santana.

The Funks imparted more than mere physical discipline to Santana. They also demonstrated how to act in the squared circle. And how not to.

"They tried to show me that there are more ways to skin a cat than you'd think," Tito said. "The Funks have a certain philosophy of wrestling which they try and explain to anyone who trains with them.

"It's not that they tell you to act a certain way. They just stress sportsmanship and other things."

From the Funks, Santana also learned the importance of conditioning.

"They'd hammer it home to you. Stay in shape, stay in shape."

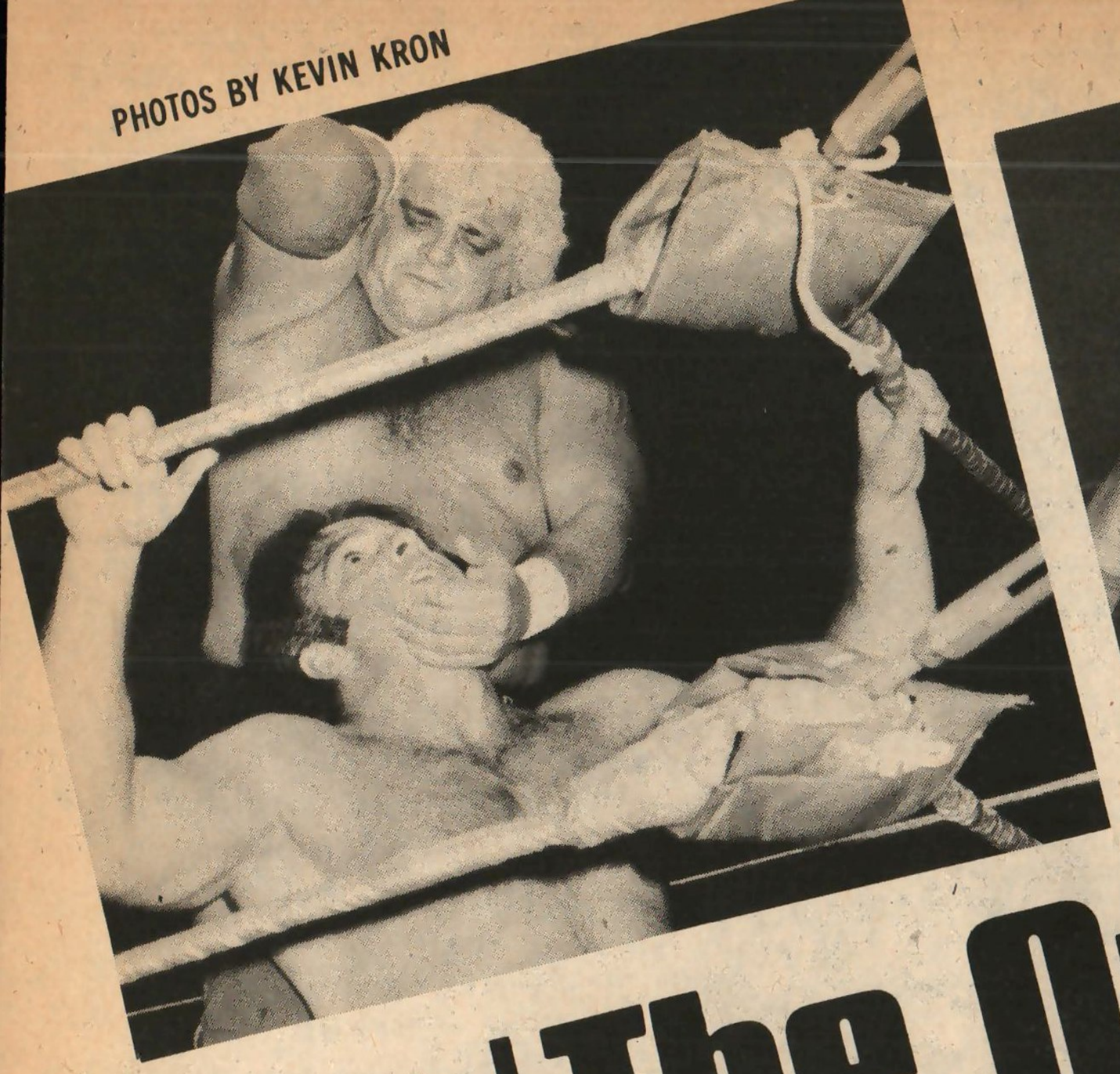
A native of Mexico City, it is only natural that Tito's wrestling idol would be Mil Mascaras.

"Oh, sure, growing up in Mexico, you can bet that idolizing Mil Mascaras is like eating a

(Continued on page 58)

The fans of the WWF have seen many rookies shine. But most burn out with time. Tito Santana is hardly just another rookie. WWF fans watch in awe as the youngster climbs to higher and higher heights

PHOTOS BY KEVIN KRON



Dusty looks in good form as he lands an elbowsmash to Mark Lewin's forehead (left), but Lewin easily took the upper hand (above and right).

The Question Confronting Wrestling: WHAT HAS DU

At first, people brushed it off. Then they became somewhat concerned. Now it seems evident—Dusty Rhodes is slumping. But why? Was he seriously injured by Terry Funk or is it post-title blues? The possibilities are explored

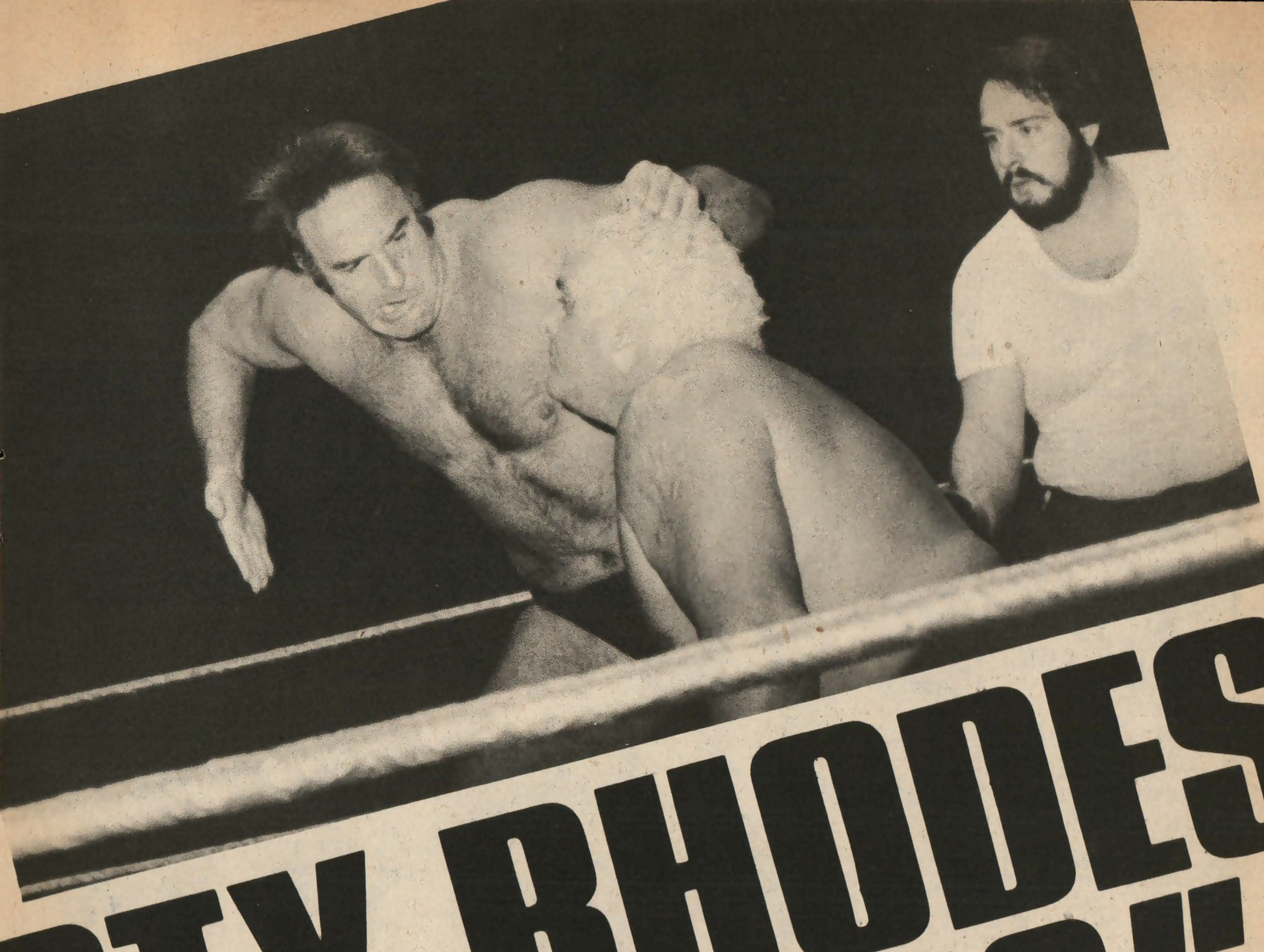
QUICKLY! WHAT DO Jack Brisco, Terry Funk, Harley Race, and Dusty Rhodes have in common? Oh, it seems easy. Sure, they've all held the NWA title at one time or another. But more than that links these four disparate personalities.

After Brisco lost the title, his game declined sharply. Terry Funk retired for a while after losing the championship. Harley Race's post-title bouts were characterized by an unusual sluggishness, nearly approaching apathy.

Now Dusty Rhodes is slumping. Since that fateful night in Orlando when Terry Funk, Harley Race, and a broken arm combined to rip the title from Rhodes, the American Dream has been, well, something less than brilliant.

"I don't know what it is," Rhodes said, shaking his head. "I'm just not doing it out there."

Whether this is a transitory slump or a permanent loss is something our distinguished panel addressed themselves to in a recent session in Florida. Due to the controversial and delicate situation these experts found



DUSTY RHODES "LOST IT?"

themselves in, anonymity was requested and granted.

"Not one man in wrestling compares with Dusty Rhodes when it comes to intensity," said a member of the panel, a gray-haired man smoking a long cigar. "That's why I think he's in danger of blowing it.

"Emotion is an integral part of Rhodes' makeup in the ring. Without that unharnessed energy and drive, Rhodes is a guy named Joe. And I think the way he lost the title demoralized him."

The manner in which Rhodes lost his beloved belt was the crucial component, according to the panel.

"If Rhodes had just lost it, he could have come back with both feet on the ground," remarked a short, heavy-set man with thinning black hair and piercing blue eyes. "Unlike the others, Rhodes could have accepted the adversity, no matter the painful disappointment. Rhodes has a lot of character like that.

"But Rhodes was crushed the way Funk interfered," the man continued. "Dusty has pride. When he beat Race, he was flying

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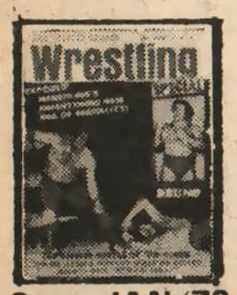

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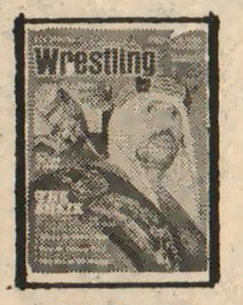

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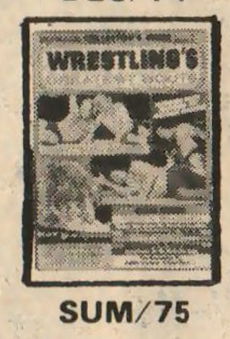

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RICK STEAMBOAT

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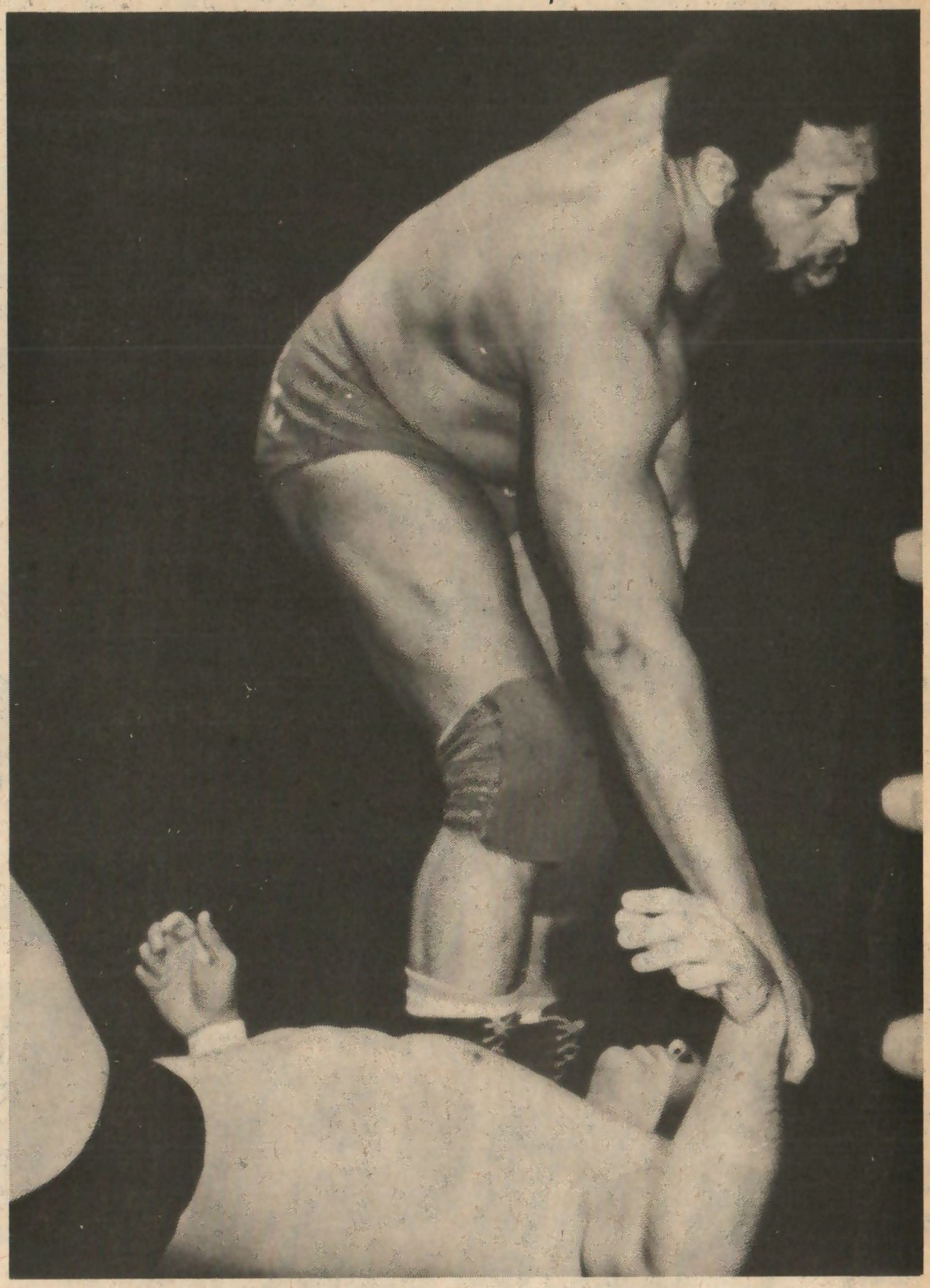

"The Big Cat," Ernie Ladd, is about to yank a prone Rick Steamboat up by his hair. The Ladd-Steamboat feud is growing. Can Rick survive another feud?

carries down there," Johnston said smilingly.

"Ladd pulled out a foreign object, kind of sharp and menacing-looking," Johnston continued. "Naturally, Ladd had distracted the ref by pointing at something which didn't exist near the ring apron.

"As soon as the ref looked away, Ladd shoved the object into Steamboat's throat, tossing him out of the ring."

The bruise on the throat has healed. But not the scar on Steamboat's mind.

"I don't allow anyone to get away with that. Maybe some wrestlers forgive or are too chicken to take on the rule-breakers," Steamboat said.

"Not this boy." He jabbed himself in the chest. "I don't care how many feuds I'm involved in. Ladd, Flair, hell, I'll take on anyone who crosses me

and doesn't play fair.

"I've got my principles to live by," Steamboat said. "If I backed down, I couldn't rest my conscience at night."

Those are admirable qualities. However, those same noble aims might cause Steamboat eventual harm. If he believes that a feud with Ladd can be quickly wrapped up, he is sadly mistaken.

"Steamboat wants to feud?' Ladd chided. "Wait 'till his skin clears up. I don't mess with little boys."

That was Ladd the Sarcastic. Now for Ladd the Serious.

"Steamboat doesn't realize what he's getting into. He will be feuding with the greatest, most talented wrestler ever to live or who ever will live," Ladd boasted.

"Once I pick up the gauntlet, I will not rest until Steamboat has been converted to the righteous ways of rule evasions, or until he is dead."

Many believe that Steamboat's real danger lies not in any physical harm, but in the alteration of his mental outlook.

Already, Steamboat's temper tantrums are causing him costly disqualifications. Already, he is succumbing to hatred in his feuds with Flair, thus ignoring the careful scientific wrestling rules he is so committed to.

What will happen when he falls beneath Ernie Ladd's poisonous influence? Ladd has already expressed a desire to turn Steamboat rulebreaker.

"He can't make me do anything I don't want to," Steamboat said stubbornly, perhaps childishly.

Rick is correct on a conscious level, but incorrect on a subtle level. Ladd and Flair's combined brutality might force Steamboat into a viciousness of his own. If Steamboat brawls continuously, can a conversion to rulebreaking be far behind? □

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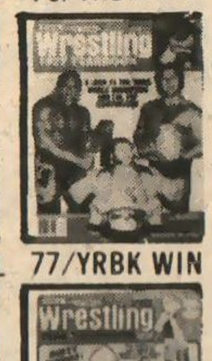
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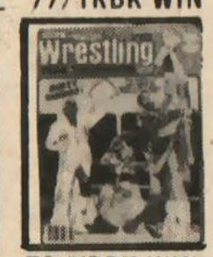
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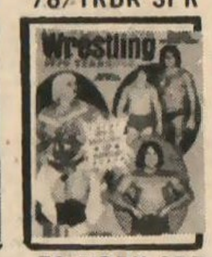
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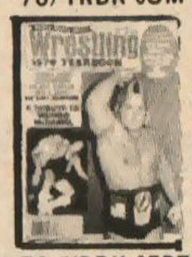
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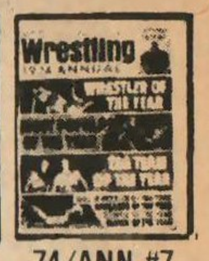
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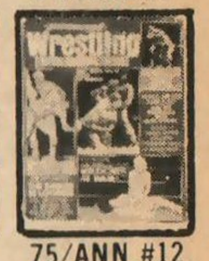
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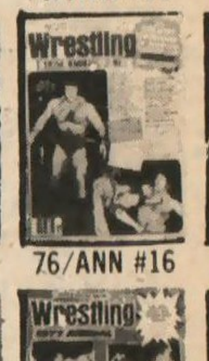
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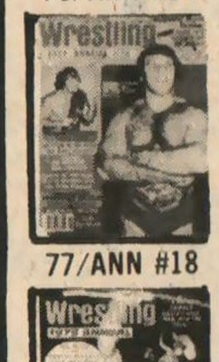
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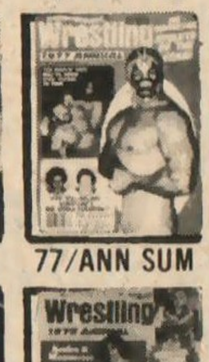
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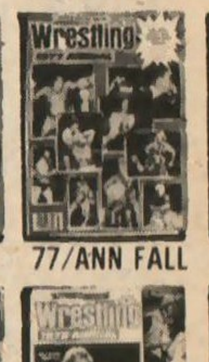
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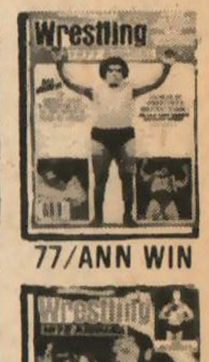
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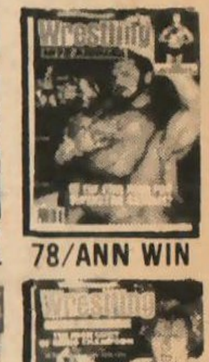
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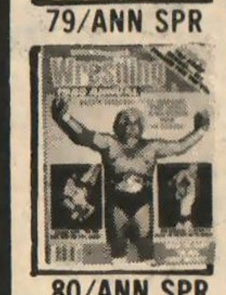
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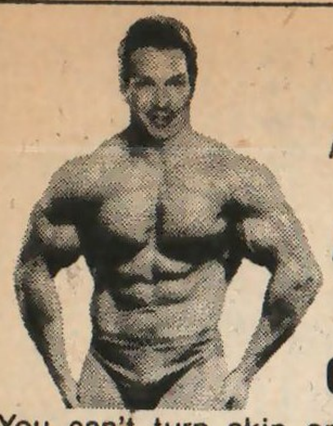

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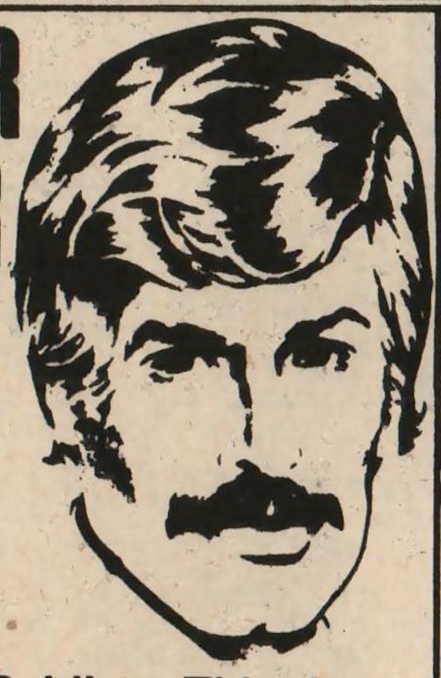

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INTRODUCTION

(Continued from Page 6)

The first story on rising Mexican star Tito Santana appeared in the October 1979 issue of *The Wrestler.* Santana has since established himself as one of the sport's top wrestlers.

wrestling's greatest scientific stars until his shocking conversion to rulebreaking in the late-1970s. **Mil Mascaras' Heartbreaking Claim: "It's My Fault Rivera Turned Bad!"** from our May 1980 edition, was one of the saddest stories we ever printed.

One of the most brutal series of matches ever occurred when Andre the Giant and Bruiser Brodie tangled in a string of six matches in early-1980. **Andre's Vow: "Ban Brodie Or I'll Quit!"** was an ultimatum that shocked the wrestling establishment, and the readers of the March 1980 issue of *The Wrestler*.

In our January 1980 edition we asked, **Three-Time NWA Champion Harley Race: Will History Say He's The Greatest?**. Since that story was published, Race has won the NWA title *three more times*! History may yet say this superb battler is the best ever.

Perhaps the finest scientific wrestler who ever held a world title was Jack Brisco. Yet some wrestlers, perhaps out of jealousy, tried to claim Brisco was lucky and overrated. **Dick Slater: "How Could Jack Brisco Ever Have Been Champion** (July 1979) showed more about Slater's mental problems than it did Brisco's physical prowess.

Zooming to the top in wrestling is an exhilarating and sometimes dangerous journey. **A New—And Deadly—Feud For Ricky Steamboat** (September 1979) details just how dangerous it can become for a young man with a big reputation.

In October 1979, *The Wrestler*'s popular "Introducing" series featured a young man from Mexico for whom we predicted stardom. **Introducing Tito Santana** was the first story ever in a national magazine on this young star. Obviously, it wasn't the last.

After losing a major title, every wrestler goes through a short slump. **The Question Concerning Wrestling: Has Dusty Rhodes "Lost It"?** (February 1980) took a hard look at the American Dream after he lost the NWA title. If Dusty was in a slump then, he certainly is out of it now.

This is the lineup for this edition of *The Best Of The Wrestler*. We feel it is a baker's dozen of excellence. □

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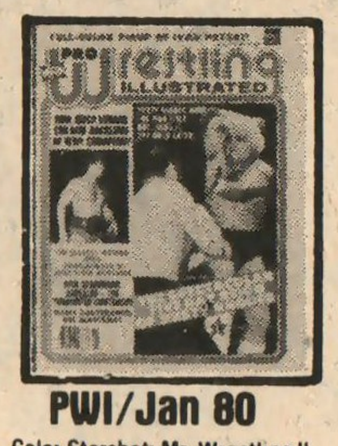


PWI/May 80
Color Starshot: Ric Flair

PWI/July 80
Color Starshot: The Sheik

PWI/Aug 80
Color Starshot: Koloff & Smirnoff

PWI/Sept 80
Color Starshots: Rick Steamboat, Humperdink's Army, Hulk Hogan

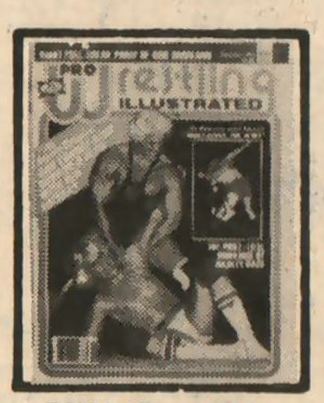
PWI/Jan 81
Color Poster: Bruno Sammartino

PWI/Apr 81
Color Poster: Hulk Hogan

PWI/May 81
Color Poster: Mr. Wrestling II

PWI/Aug 81
Color Poster: Dusty Rhodes

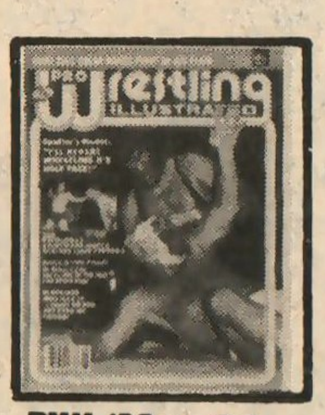
PWI/Oct 81
Color Poster: Ted DiBiase



PWI/Dec 81
Color Poster: Bob Backlund

PWI/Jan 82
Color Poster: Magnificent Muraco

PWI/Feb 82
Color Poster: Tony Garea & Rick Martel

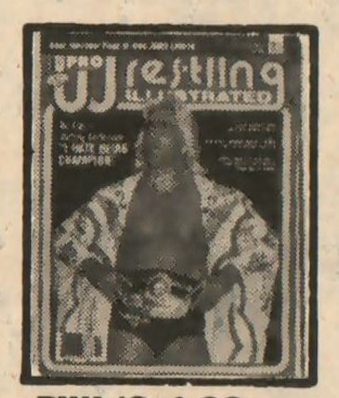


PWI/May 82
Color Poster: Ric Flair

PWI/June 82
Color Poster: Nick Bockwinkel

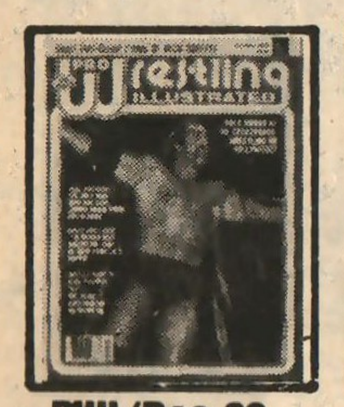
PWI/Aug 82
Color Poster: Dino Bravo

PWI/Sept 82
Color Poster: Blackjack Mulligan Jr.



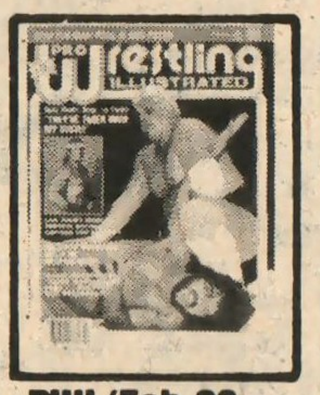
PWI/Oct 82
Color Poster: Jerry Lawler

PWI/Nov 82
Color Poster: Jimmy Snuka



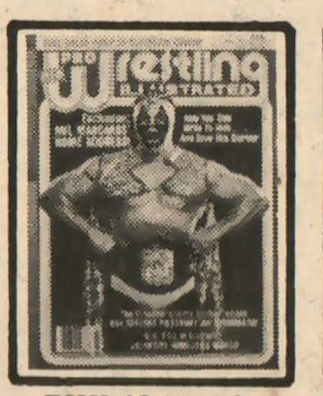
PWI/Dec 82
Color Poster: Rick Martel

PWI/Jan 83
Color Poster: Ken Patera

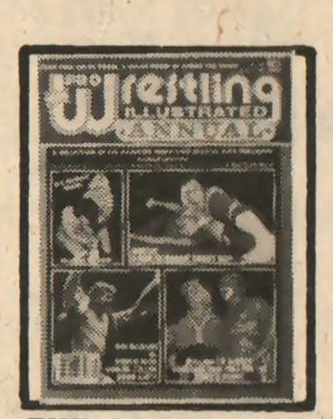


PWI/Feb 83
Color Poster: Ivan Putski

PWI/Mar 83
Color Poster: Andre The Giant



PWI/Apr 83
Color Poster: Superstar Graham



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ANDRE'S VOW

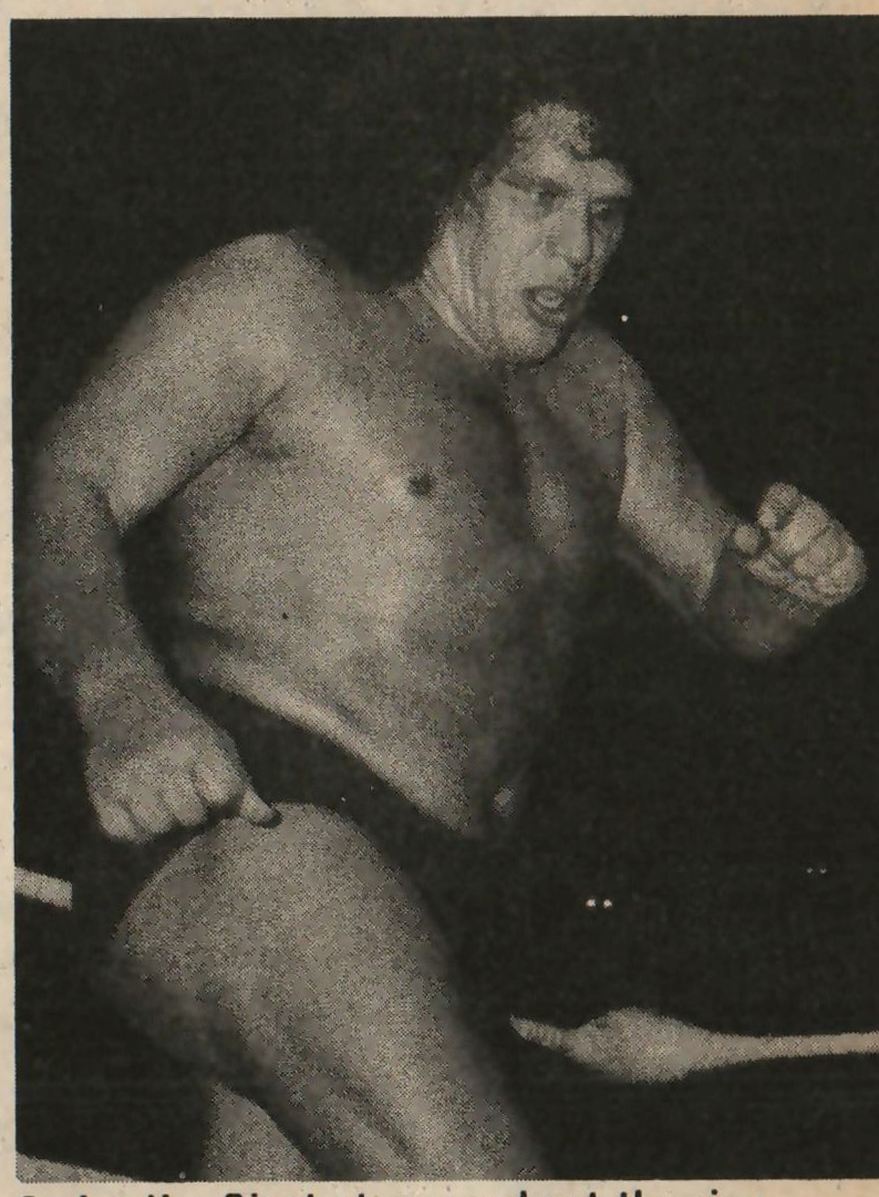
(Continued from Page 37)

seconds wisely and well. Brodie never got back in the match.

After it was over, the ring doctor rushed to Andre's side. He took one look at the victim's eyes and demanded, "I need a couple of guys to help this man back to the dressing room. Now!"

Two men quickly came to the grappler's aid. As they led Andre away, Brodie rushed up and screamed, "I lost the match but you're finished. You're finished!"

Andre was too weak to reply.



Andre the Giant staggers about the ring after being hit repeatedly by the steel bar Bruiser Brodie concealed within his bandaged right hand.

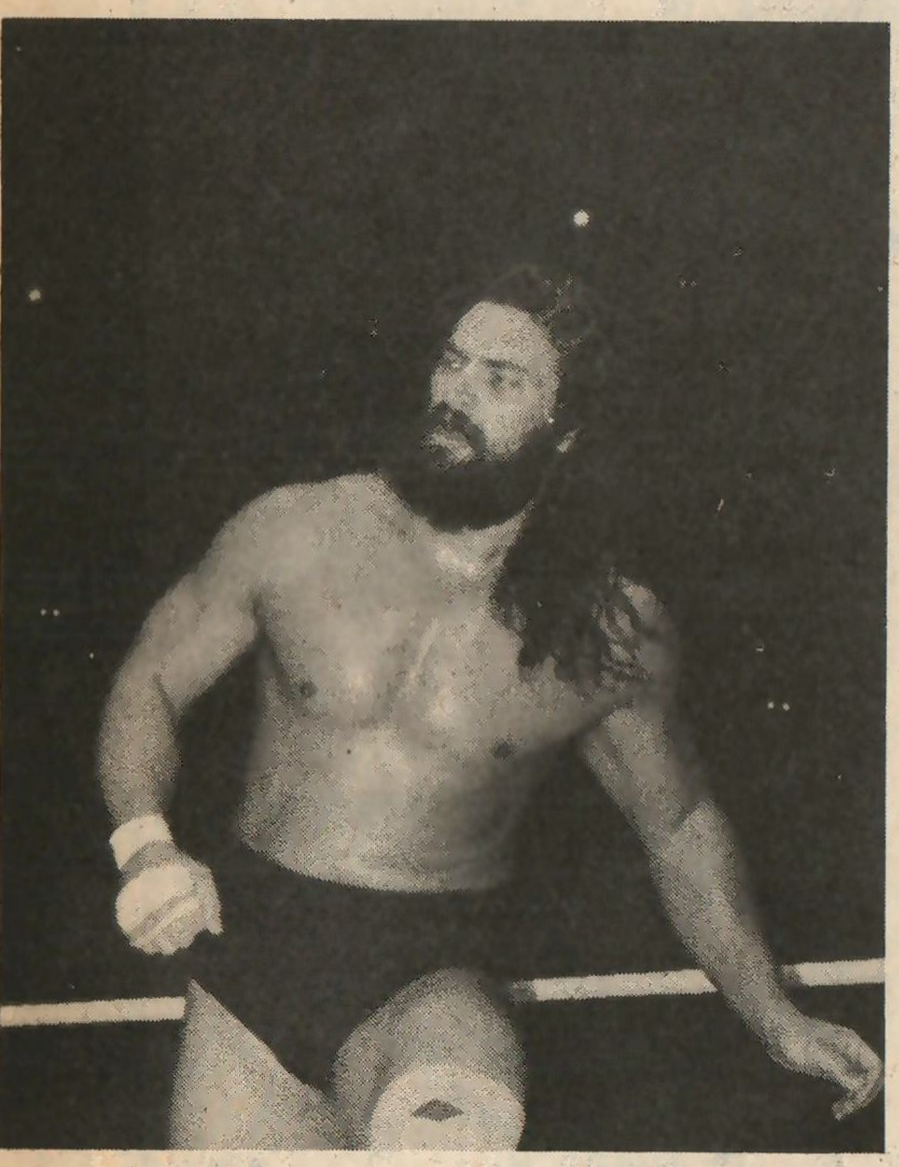
Back in the dressing room, the doctor examined Andre carefully. "The man has a concussion. Don't let him go to sleep. We'll take him to the hospital. It's a few blocks away. It might be better if we walk. Driving, he could fall asleep. That's dangerous with a concussion. Let's go."

Andre survived. He'll be able to wrestle as good as ever. Luck was all that saved Andre and wrestling from tragedy. One would suppose punishment was given to the man or men responsible for allowing

Brodie into the ring with a steel bar taped to his hand. That's what one would suppose.

The reality is different. There was a meeting called to see who was responsible for the gross negligence. First, the referee testified.

"According to what I'd been told," the official said, "I'm not allowed to inspect a man's bandage. If foul play is suspected, the ring officials are supposed to demand the bandage be inspected. It's not my responsibility. Brodie could've demanded I be replaced. You know how those guys are always screaming with favoritism,



especially when they're wrestling Andre."

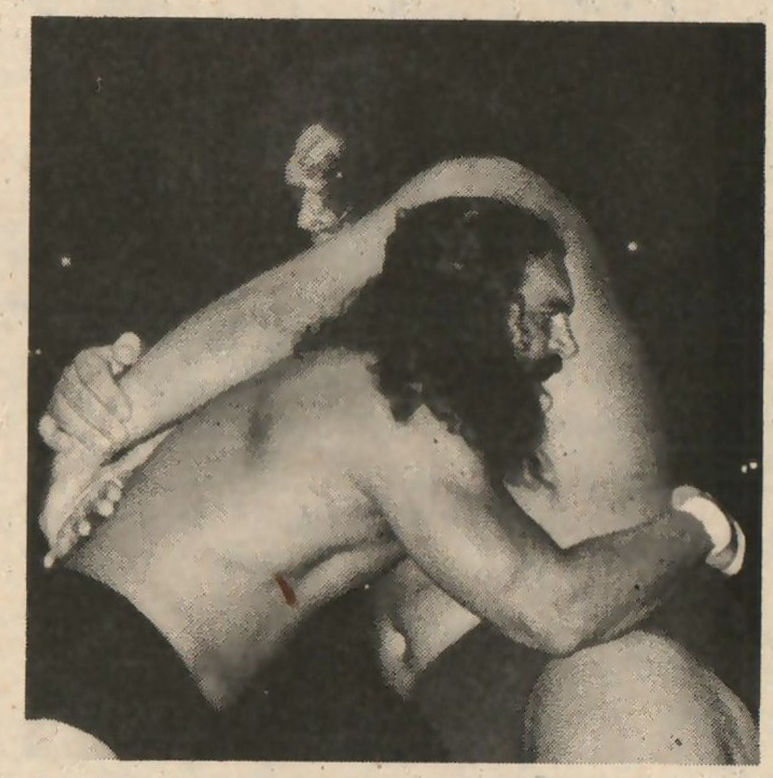
Next, the ring officials made their excuses.

"We couldn't do anything," they said, "because it's a medical matter. If we opened the bandage and Brodie suffered because of it, we could be sued. The doctor should've examined the bandage before Brodie got near the ring."

Naturally, the doctor was called. Just as naturally, he explained why he wasn't to blame.

"My one responsibility," he declared, "is to examine wrestlers after the match. If they wanted Brodie examined before, either the ring official or the referee should have asked. Look, I'm a doctor. I help people who are hurt. I'm not some kind of medical cop. That's up to the ref or ring officials."

The inquiry ended with nothing resolved. Brodie was fined for entering the ring with a reinforced bandage. They wanted to suspend him, but Brodie pointed out the bandage was in full view of everyone. It should have been examined. If they let him wrestle, then the bandage couldn't have been all that bad. After all, as he said, "If a loaded bandage is a bad crime, why wasn't I examined?" No one could answer that one.



Andre is at Brodie's mercy. The Giant has threatened to leave wrestling if Brodie does not face disciplinary action.

So, no one really suffered but Andre. "In a way, he was lucky, also," the doctor observed. "If he was hit just a little harder, his skull would've cracked. He would've been seriously injured or even killed." As it was, the wrestler was dizzy for a few days. He had to cancel a month of matches, costing him a small fortune. Still, it could have been much worse.

Andre doesn't like to talk about the incident. Yet, when Brodie's name is mentioned, Andre's eyes get hard and cold. It makes you believe justice will triumph eventually. □

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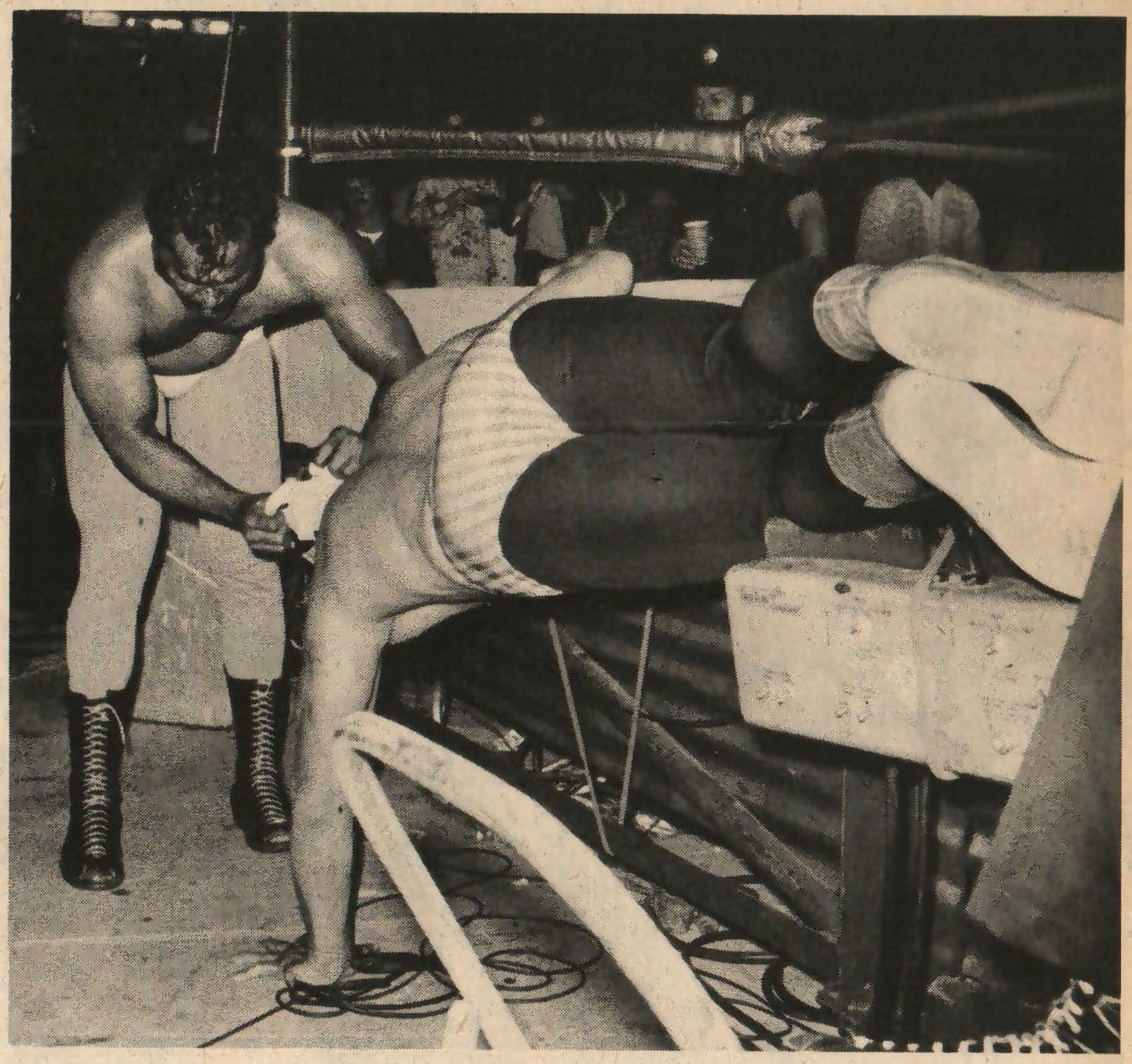
Mil Mascaras' Heartbreaking Claim

(Continued from Page 35)

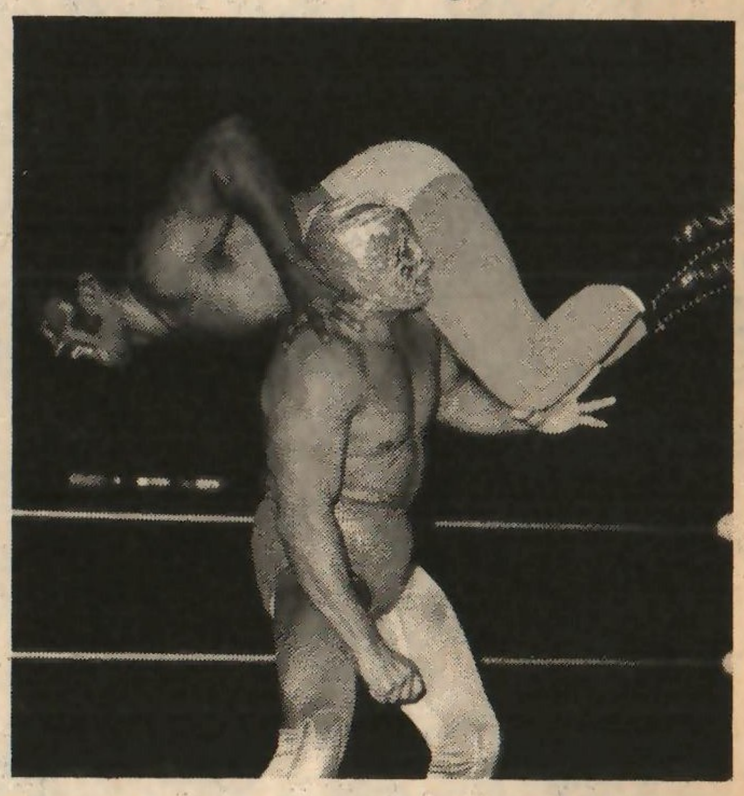


that it couldn't be that bad, he bit his lower lip and told me the terrible news.

"He said that Victor Rivera had brought a foreign object into the ring against his opponent. I could not believe that, no, I told him there was some mistake. My friend said there wasn't. I felt there were some extenuating circumstances. I knew the best way to clear this up was to call Victor," said Mil.

"When I reached Victor, he was very curt with me. He said the night was very wrenching and was too fatigued to speak. Victor said he had to meet someone for dinner and would call me back. He said this man he was meeting was a true friend," Mil said. Again he faltered and needed several moments to compose himself. Steady but troubled, Mascaras continued his sad, guilt-ridden tale.

Above: With a grip on his torn mask, Rivera drags Mil from the ring. Below: Rivera had nowhere to go but down.



"At that point, I thought I understood what had happened. Obviously Victor was provoked and, in the heat of battle, seized any object he could get his hands on. His foe probably brought the foreign object into the ring and Victor was merely defending himself," said Mil.

"But the next time someone told me Victor Rivera had

brawled and broken the rules, I began to worry. And the next time, I called him. Again he told me he was too drained and couldn't speak. He was sharp, almost rude. I wondered. And worried," said Mascaras.

"Even my worst fears did not anticipate what would happen," said Mascaras. "The same scenario: a friend comes to me and says your old friend Victor Rivera hurt someone tonight. He made them scream. He made them cry. He put them into the hospital. I could stand it no longer. I had to act.

"I went to see Victor and demanded to know what he was doing. He said I had no business asking such things of him. Victor said he owed me nothing. I agreed. I said all he owed was gratitude to the fans, because they made him and they broke him. I told him they are his true friends.

"He said I wasn't. He asked me why I never visited him in the hospital after a brutal rulebreaker seriously injured him. I explained, as I had done before, that I was on a world tour and couldn't see him. Then he said something which sent shivers up and down my spine.

"Rivera said that his only friend was Fred Blassie. He had visited him in the hospital. He had shown concern. Now he trusted Blassie above everyone else. Me, he didn't trust one little bit.

"I could not believe what he said to me. I stumbled out of the house and down the steps. I must have walked for hours. All I could think of was the earlier days, when victor had shown so much promise. Those days of hope were gone.

"And it was all my fault. If only I'd acted sooner, this never would have happened. It is my fault. I can never forgive myself. I only hope the fans can find forgiveness in their hearts." □

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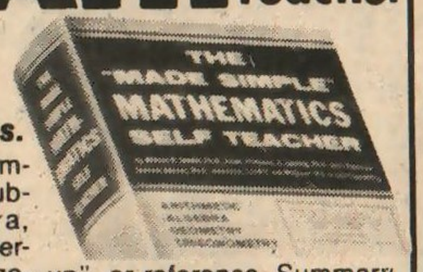

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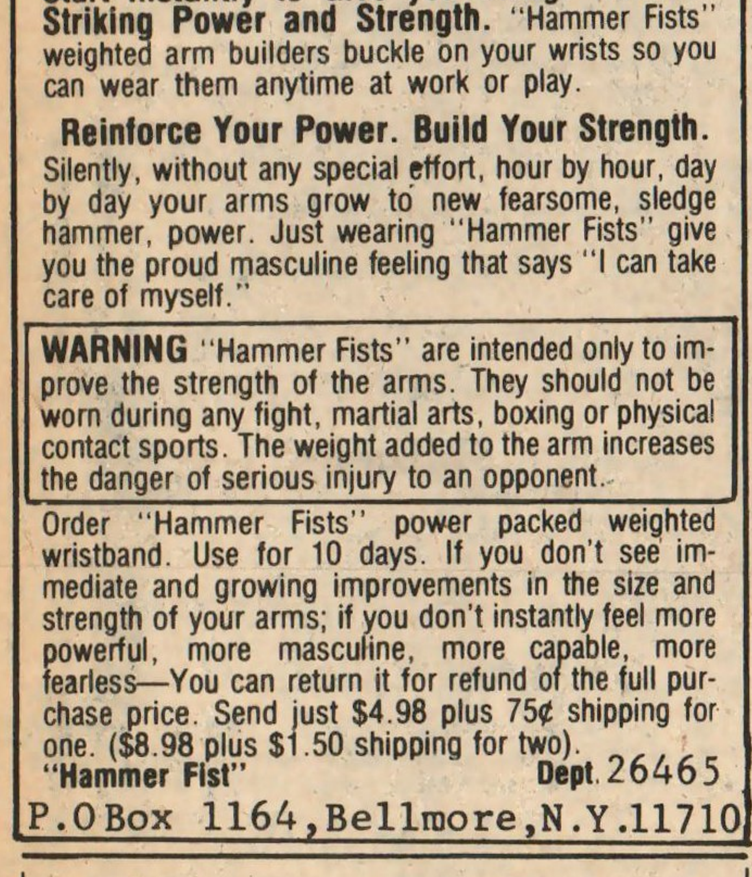

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TITO SANTANA

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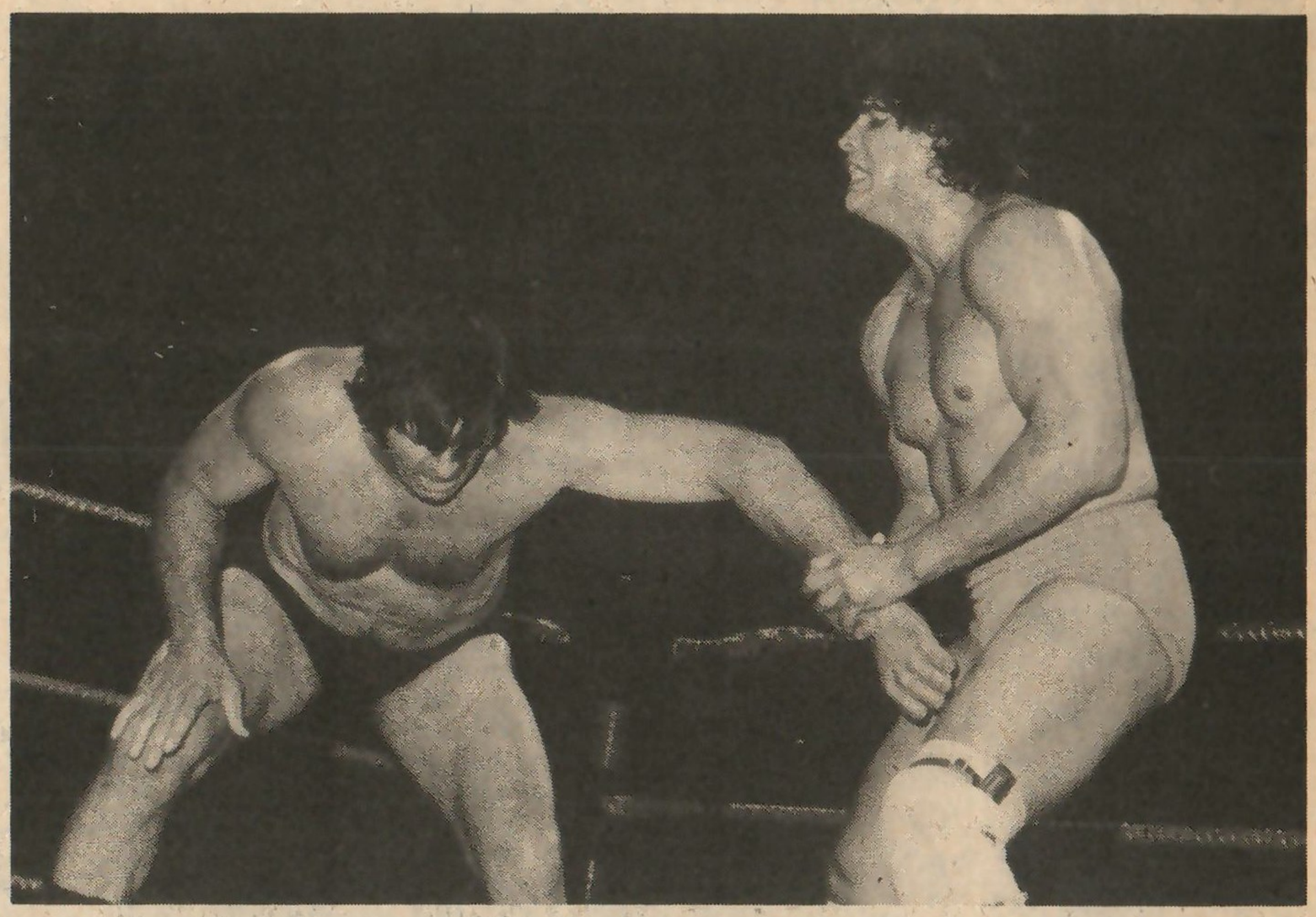

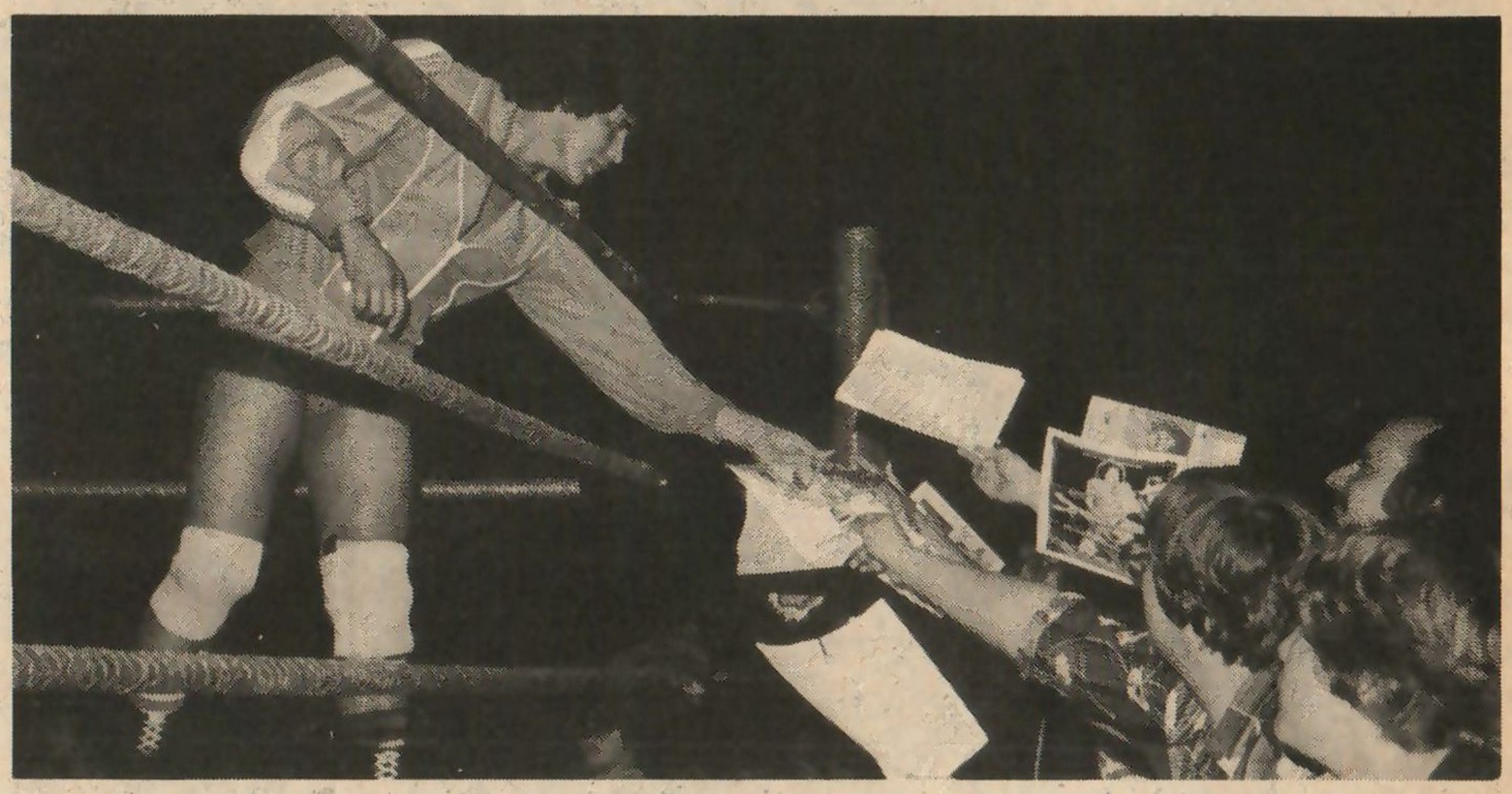

Santana works on Scicluna's arm with a well-executed scientific hold (top). The fans, who love Tito and his thrilling flying maneuvers, flock to Santana for autographs (above).

tortilla," Tito said. "To every kid in Mexico, Mil is an idol.

"And especially to anyone thinking about a career in wrestling," Tito continued. "You look up to Mil and respect him because he's got such class.

"People may snipe at Mil, but who can ever say that he is not a dignified and classy guy? I guess the highest praise I could ever expect in my wrestling life would be for someone to call me the young Mil Mascaras," Santana said, smiling.

The effect of Mascaras on Santana's style is apparent from Tito's reliance on flying maneuvers.

"Well, you watch Mascaras long enough and you're just overwhelmed by what he does. Naturally, you want to try it," Santana said.

"I like flying maneuvers because they require speed and agility, plus a lot of hard work. I like to work out. That's the way to the top," Santana said.

Right now, Santana is inching his way up the WWF ladder, gaining experience and admirers as he moves along. Who knows, maybe someday they will call him the young Mil Mascaras.

Or just champ. □

SPORTS REVIEW Wrestling

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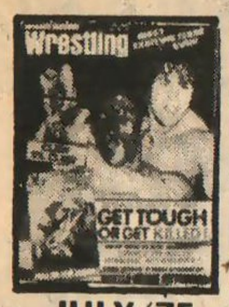
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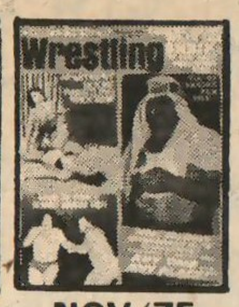
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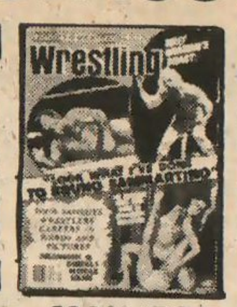
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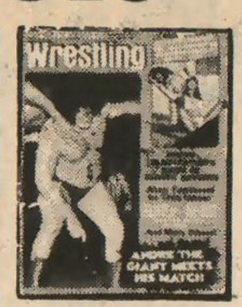
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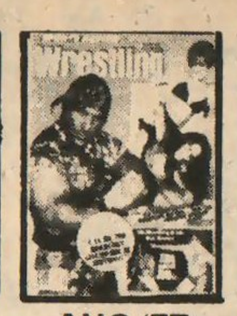
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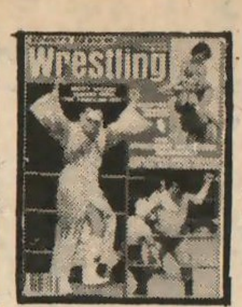
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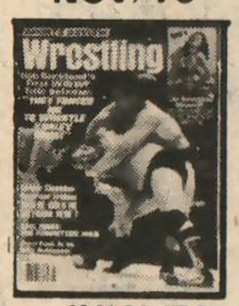
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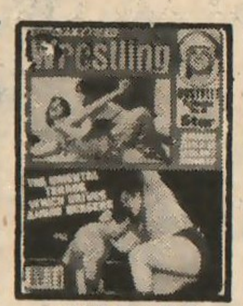
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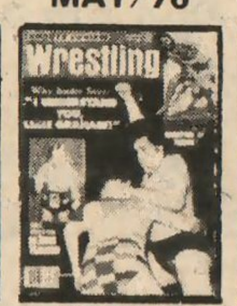
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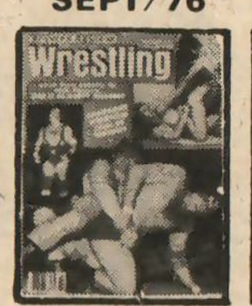
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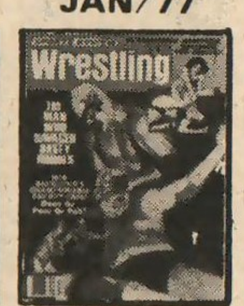
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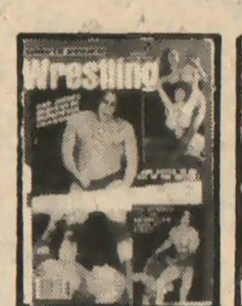
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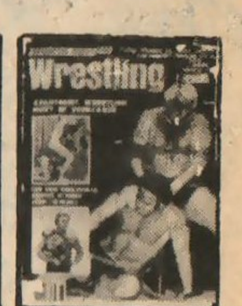
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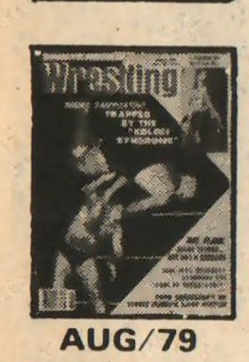
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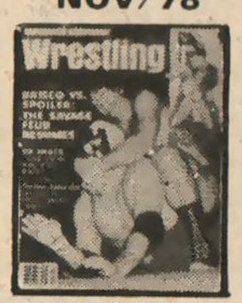
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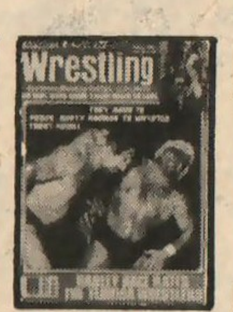
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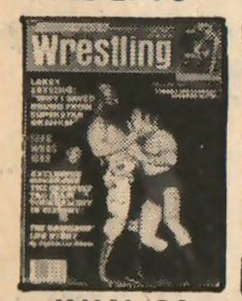
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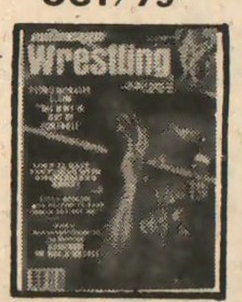
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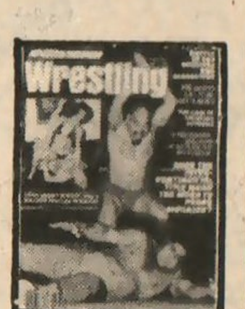
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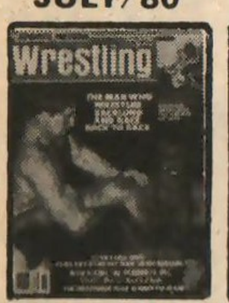
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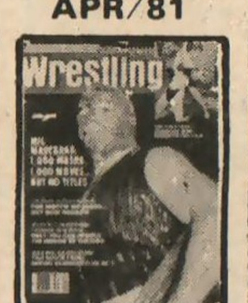
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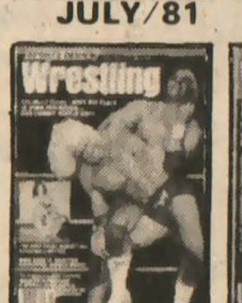
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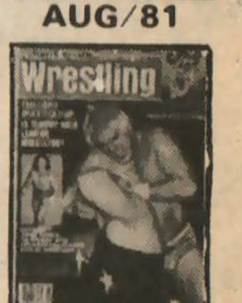
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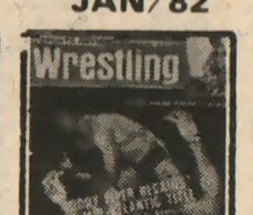
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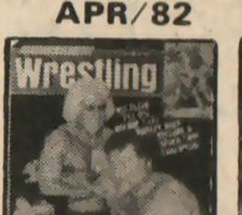
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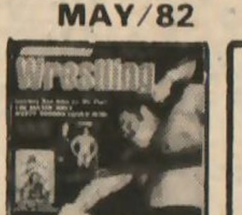
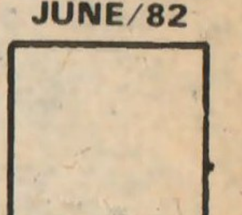
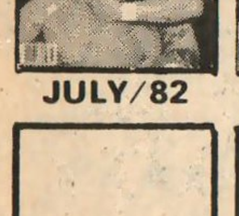
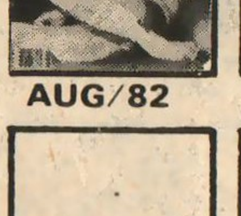

MAR/83


APR/83


MAY/83


JUNE/83

SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING

- ☐ JULY/75
- ☐ NOV/75
- ☐ MAY/76
- ☐ SEPT/76
- ☐ JAN/77
- ☐ AUG/77
- ☐ FEB/78
- ☐ JULY/78
- ☐ AUG/78
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- ☐ JAN/80
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- ☐ JUNE/81
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- ☐ JAN/82
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- ☐ JULY/82
- ☐ AUG/82
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- ☐ OCT/82
- ☐ NOV/82
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- ☐ JAN/83
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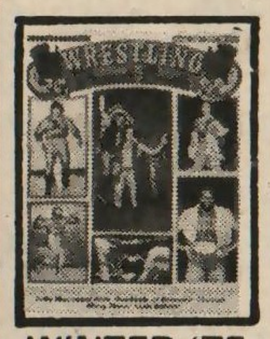
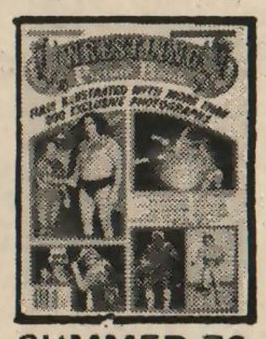

WINTER/75

SPRING 76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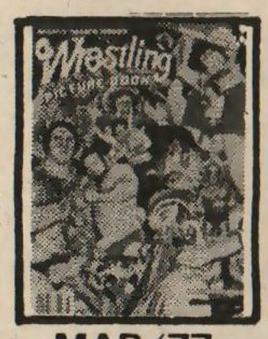
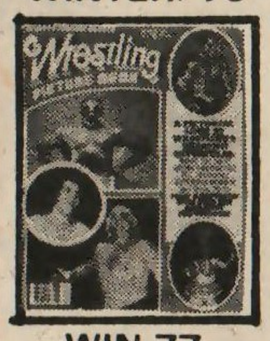
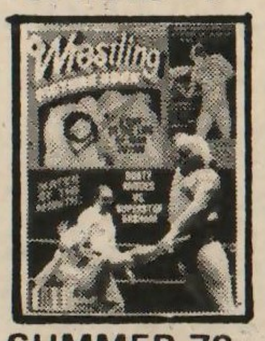

MAR/77

MAY 77


WIN 77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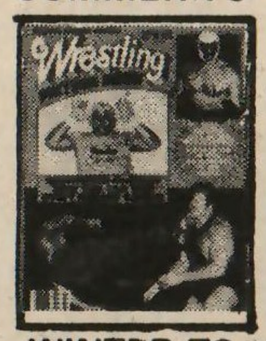

WINTER 78

SPRING 79

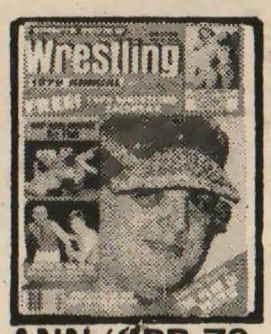
OCT 79

ANNUALS

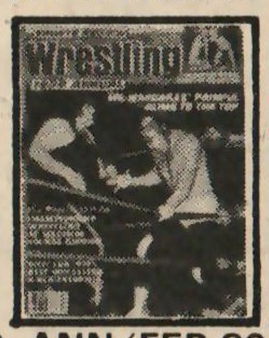
ANNUAL 1

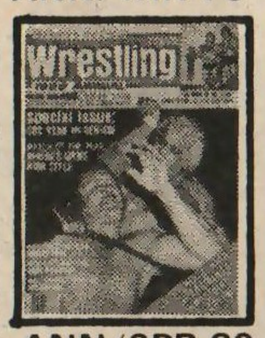
ANN/FALL 78

ANN/WIN 78


ANN/SPR 79

ANN/SUM 79


ANN/FEB 80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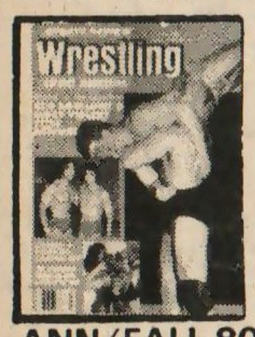
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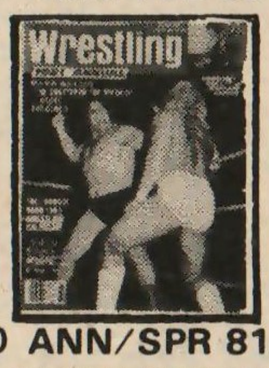
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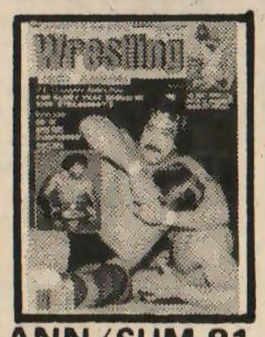
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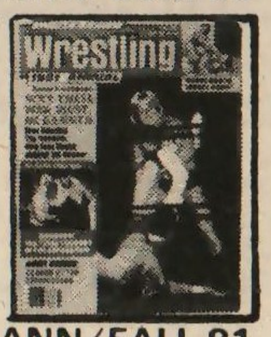
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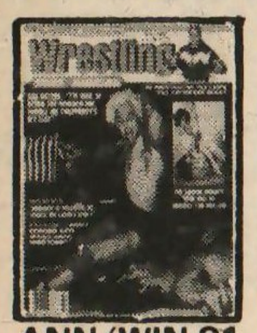
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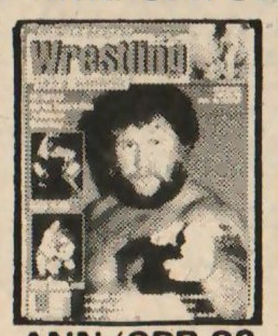
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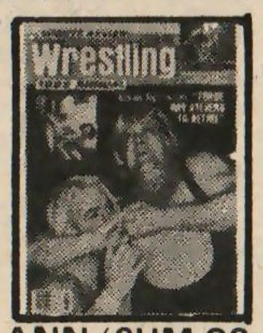
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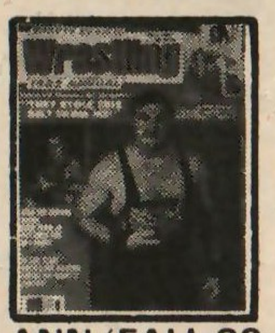
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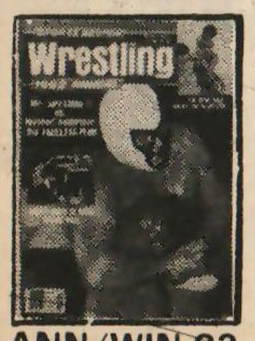
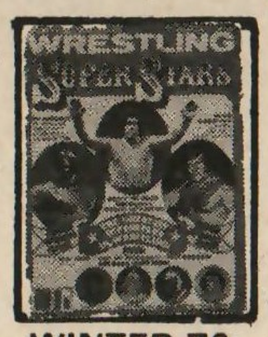

ANN/WIN 82

ANN/SPR 82

SUPERSTARS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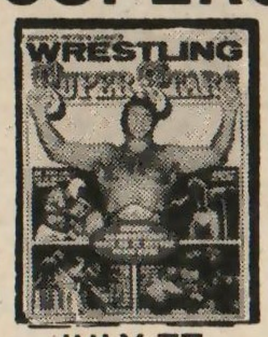
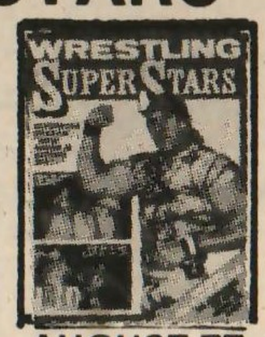

JULY 77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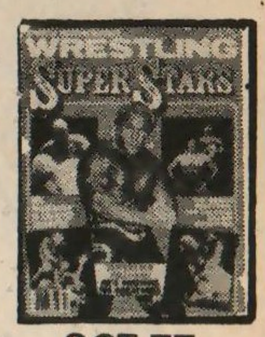
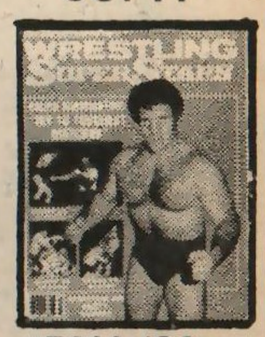
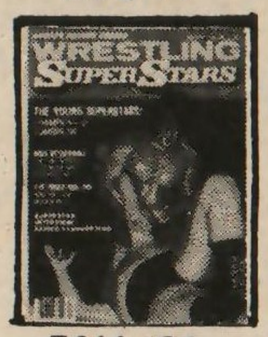

OCT 77

DEC 77

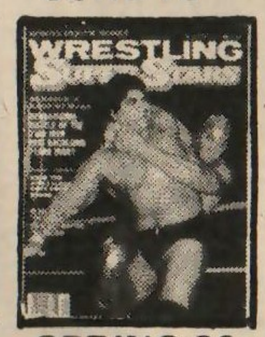
APRIL/78

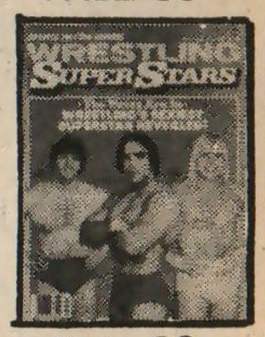
JUNE 78


FALL/80


FALL/81

WINTER/81


SPRING 82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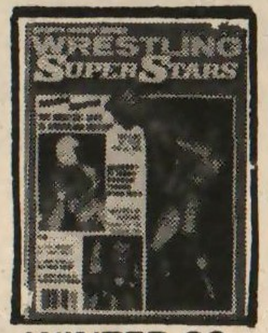
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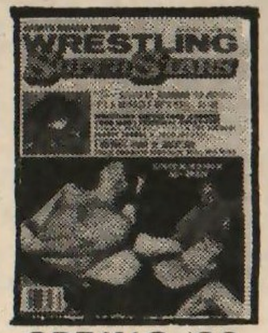
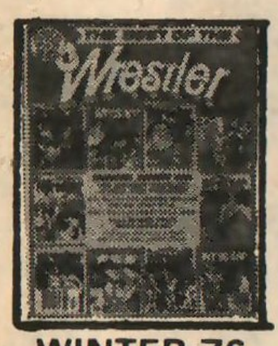
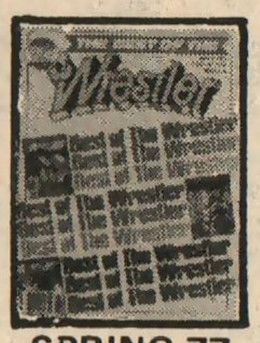

SPRING/83

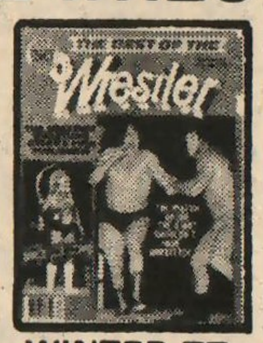
BAG IN WRESTLING HISTORY

BEST OF THE WRESTLER


WINTER 76


SPRING 77

SUMMER 77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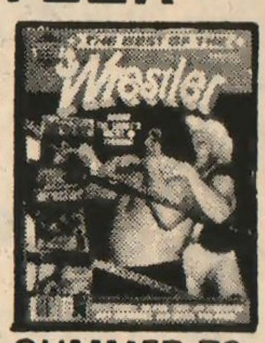
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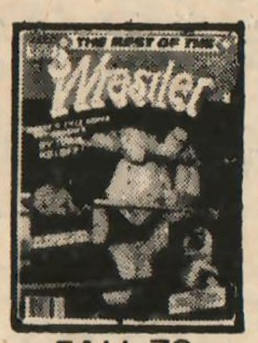
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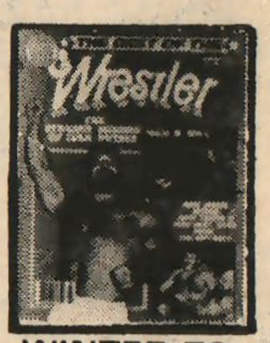
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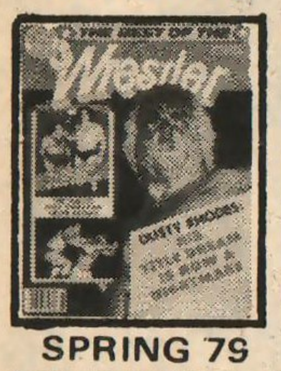
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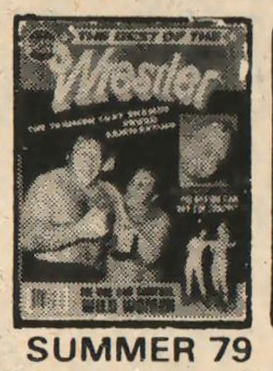
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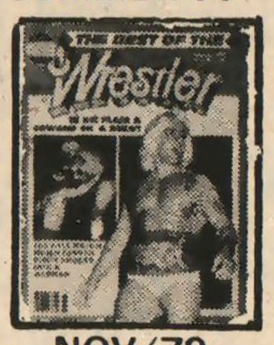
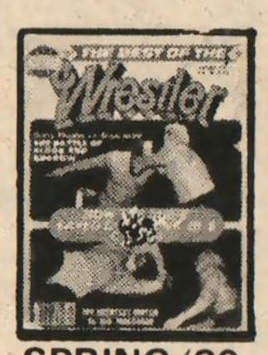
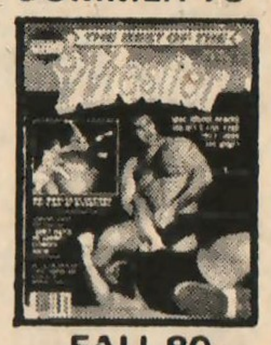

NOV/79


SPRING/80

SUMMER 80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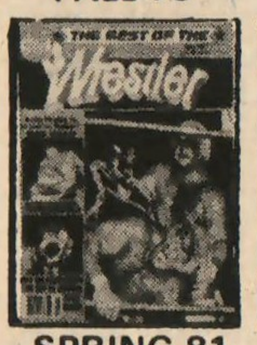
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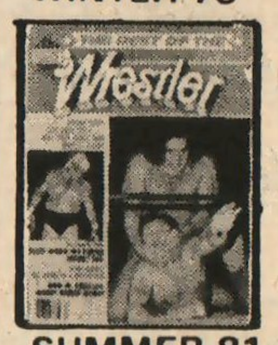
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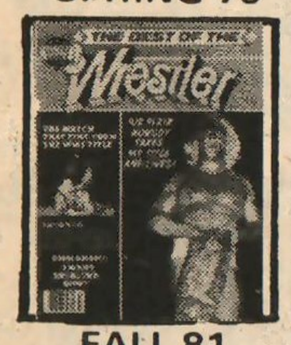
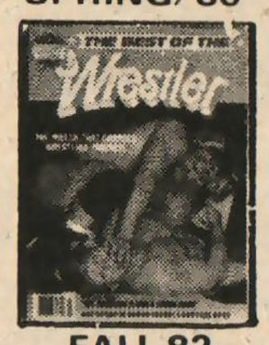

FALL 81

WINTER 81

SUMMER 82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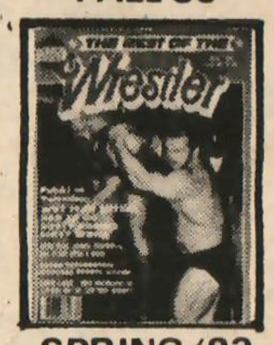
WINTER 82


SPRING/83

PICTURE BOOK

- ☐ Picture Book/Win 75
- ☐ Picture Book/Spr 76
- ☐ Picture Book/Sum 76
- ☐ Picture Book/Mar 77
- ☐ Picture Book/May 77
- ☐ Picture Book/Win 77
- ☐ Picture Book/Sum 78
- ☐ Picture Book/Win 78
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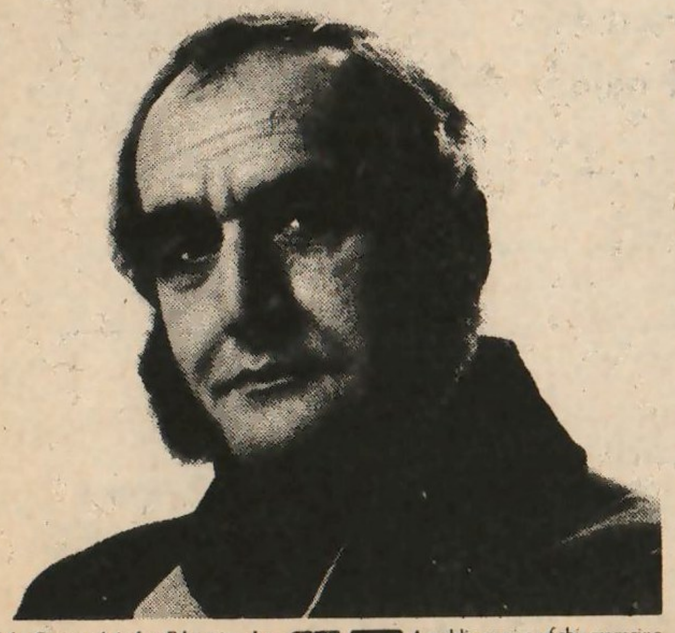

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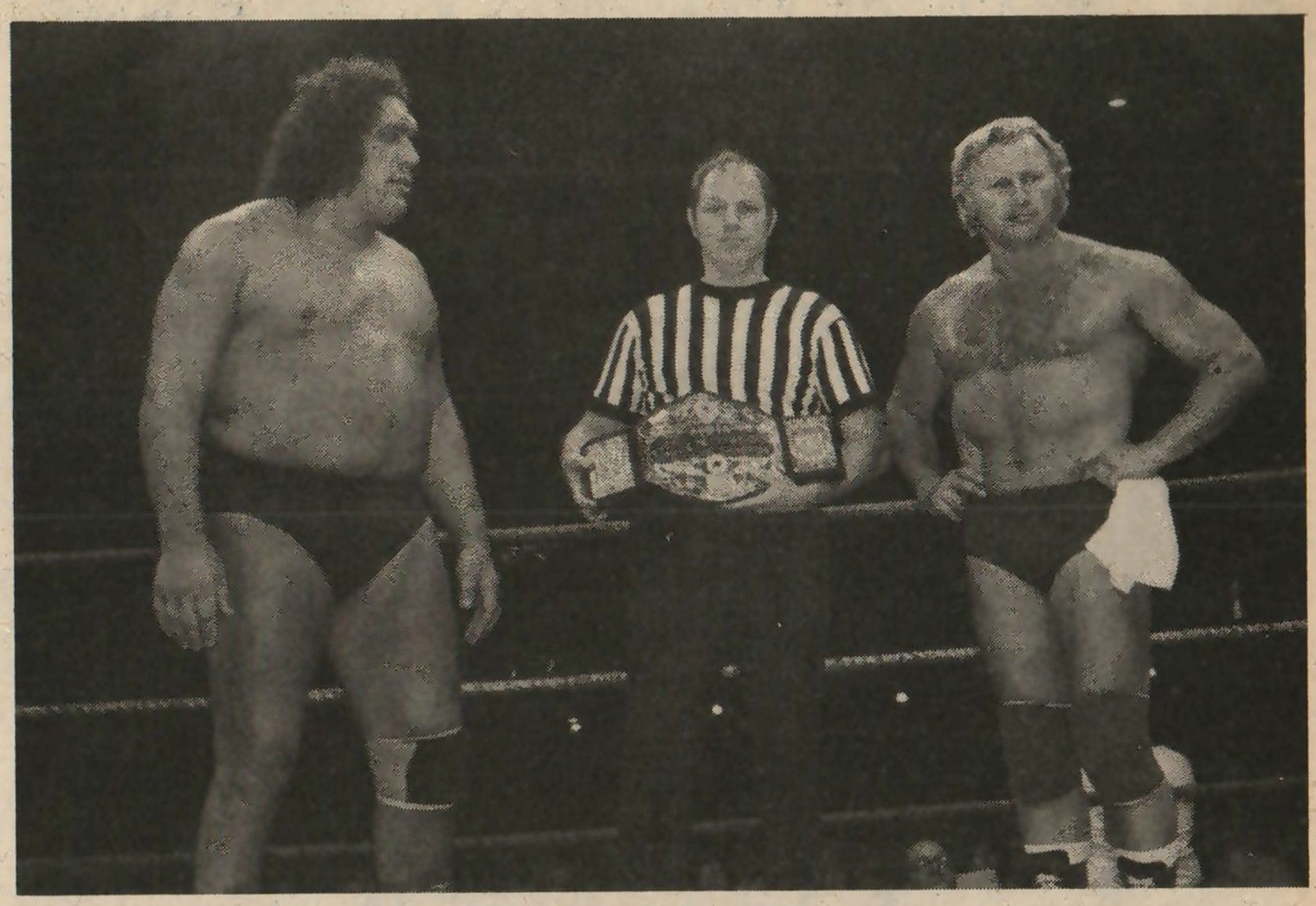
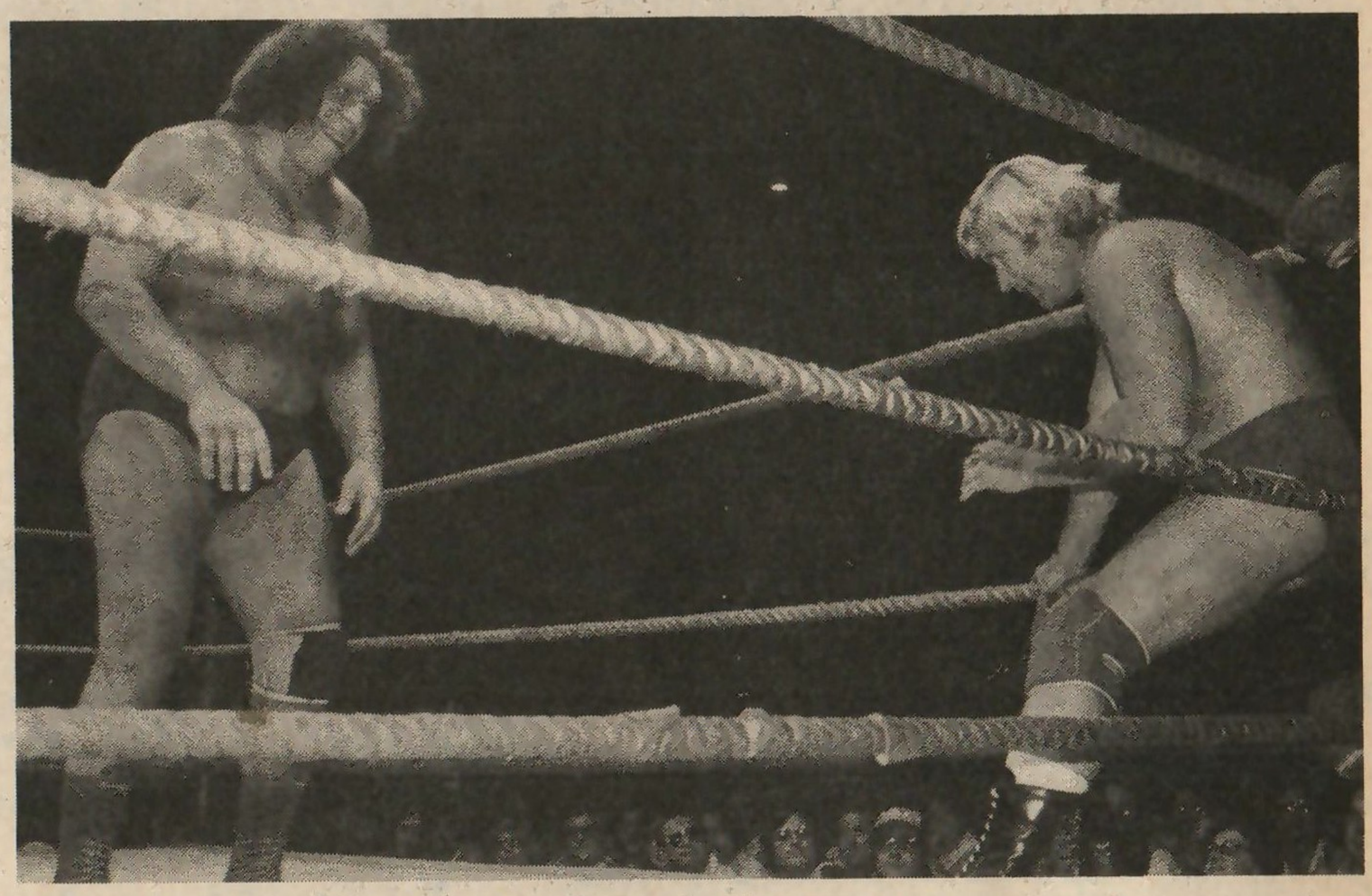
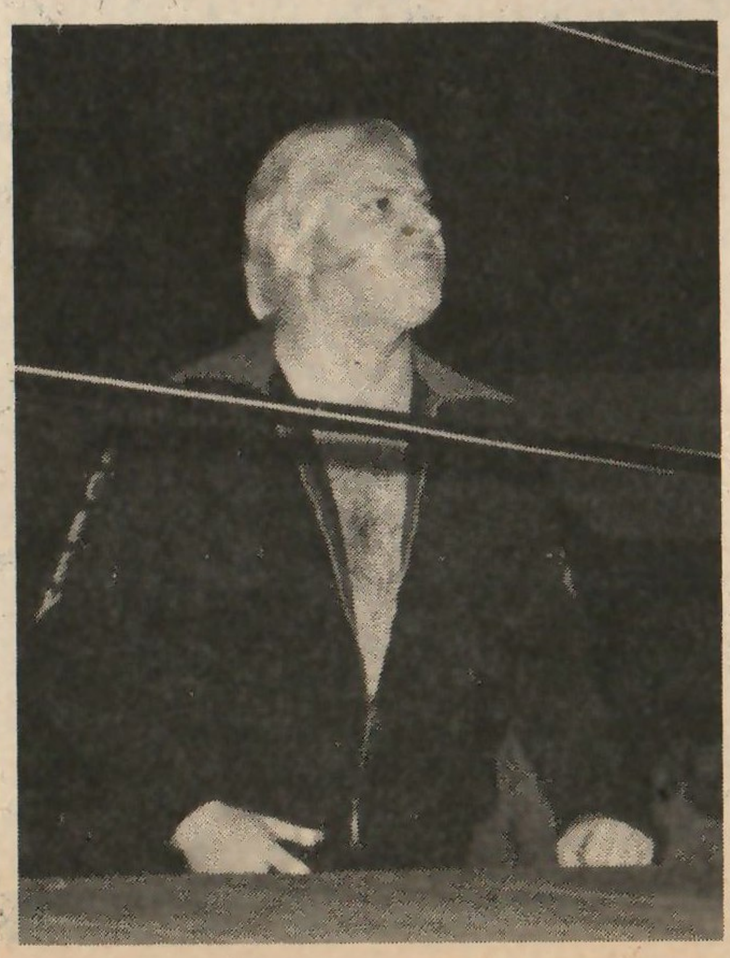
ANDRE THE GIANT

(Continued from Page 33)







Bockwinkel appears to be confident before the match (top), but Andre quickly seizes the advantage (above). Bobby Heenan seems to be unhappy in Georgia (left), but not nearly as unhappy as Bockwinkel, who is close to being pinned (opposite right).

right words. "Bobby," he said, "all those stories. Have you been reading them?"

"What stories, Nicky? What the heck are you talkin' about?"

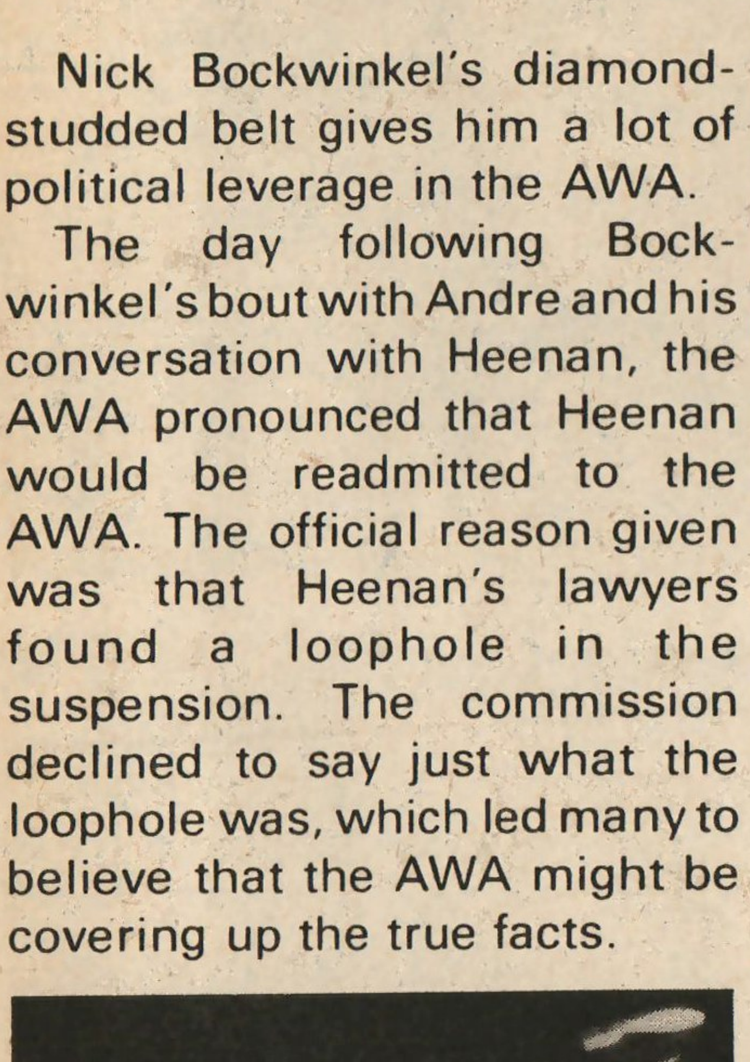
"Bobby, the stories that I'm losing it . . . Bobby we've got to find a way to get you back here. Together we're unbeatable. They can't keep you out of here. I won't let them.

"Pack your stuff Bobby Kid, you're coming back to the good old AWA."

***

Nick Bockwinkel's diamond-studded belt gives him a lot of political leverage in the AWA.

The day following Bockwinkel's bout with Andre and his conversation with Heenan, the AWA pronounced that Heenan would be readmitted to the AWA. The official reason given was that Heenan's lawyers found a loophole in the suspension. The commission declined to say just what the loophole was, which led many to believe that the AWA might be covering up the true facts.



A souce close to Bockwinkel, who requested to remain anonymous, said that Bockwinkel flatly told the AWA that he would take his championship belt out of the territory if Heenan was not allowed to return. Both the AWA and Bockwinkel denied the allegation.

"Nick has made that same threat on many occasions, but the AWA never took him seriously," the source said. "They knew he was doing too well in the area to want to leave, so they didn't really pay attention. But circumstances are different now. Nick will lose the championship if he doesn't get Heenan back and he knows it." □

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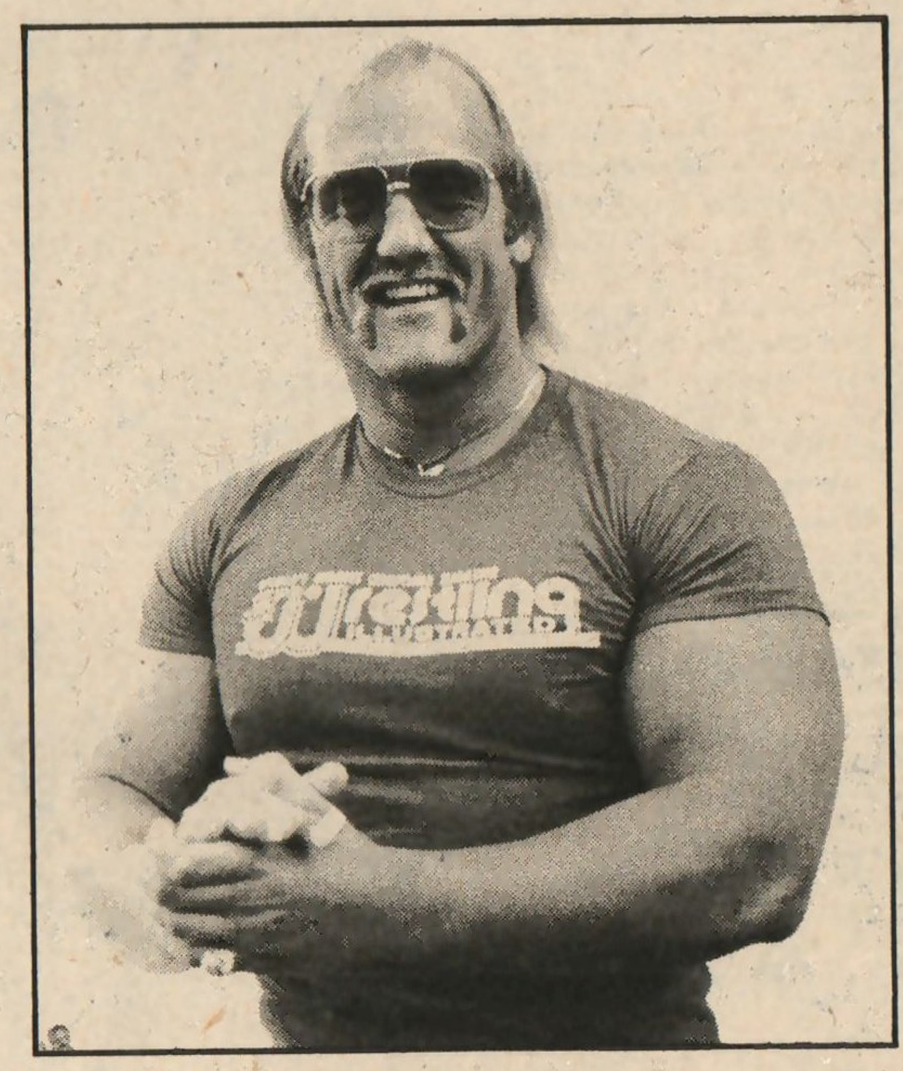

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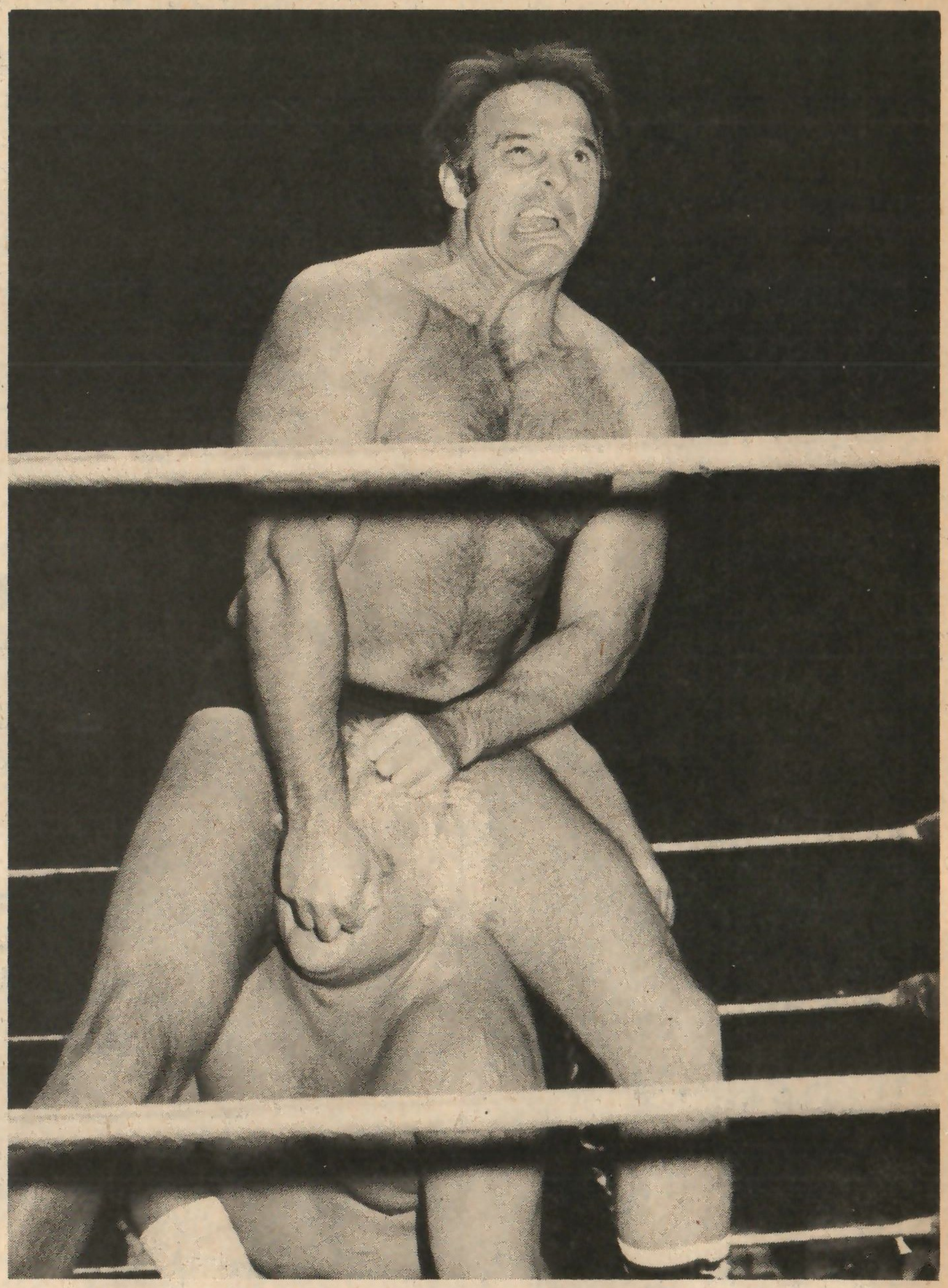
DUSTY RHODES

(Continued from Page 49)



Maniac Mark Lewin rips at Dusty's nostrils. Since sustaining a broken arm and losing the NWA title, Rhodes has been slumping.

high. Though Rhodes has been known to tough it out, he's clean. No cheating from Rhodes. So for the belt to be lost on a crummy blow by Funk dug deeply."

Rhodes' increasing bitterness was another aspect the panel focused upon.

"In all my years in wrestling, I've never seen anyone *that* bitter," said our third expert, a tall, rangy middle-aged gentleman. "Rhodes is almost blinded by his bitterness. I don't think he can think about anything but Terry Funk and what happened that evening.

"All Rhodes' energies are directed to that one objective," he continued. "If you are so obsessed, you can't plan a strategy or react properly. Animal instincts are not enough in the NWA."

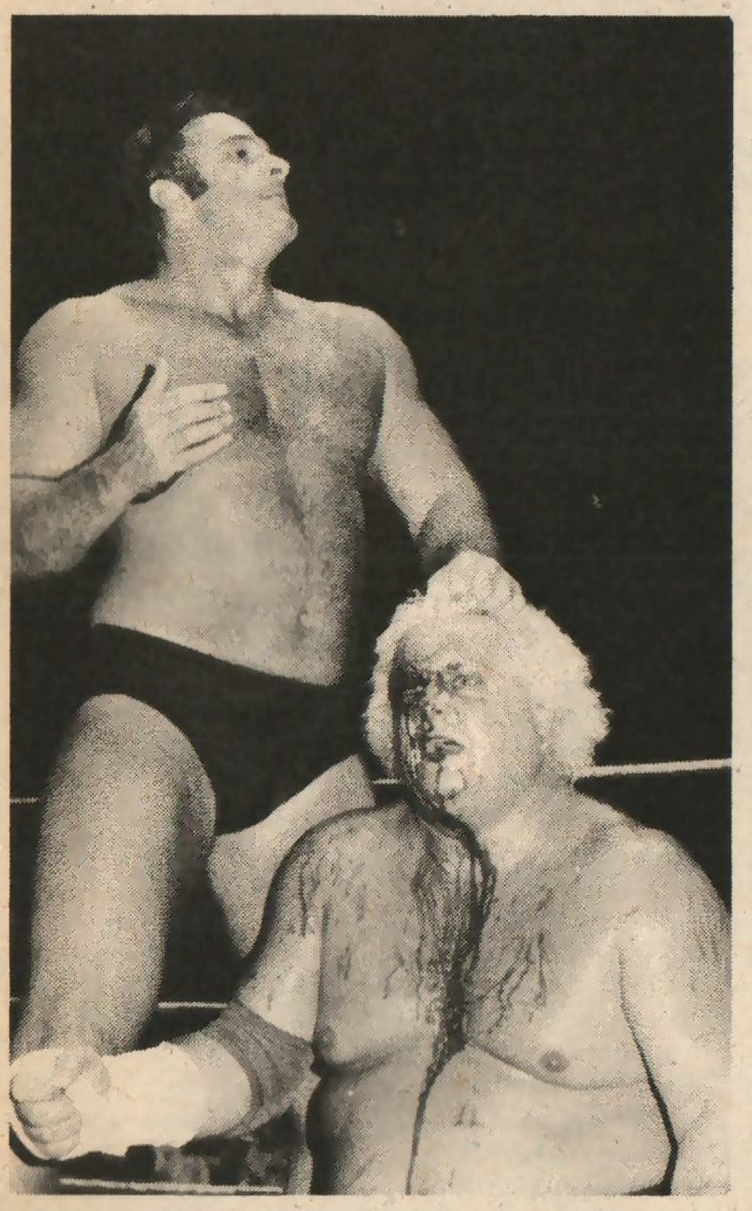
A consensus quickly developed. Apparently, Rhodes was not afflicted with the kind of slump other champions have endured. His difficulties were unique to his situation.

"Any wrestler has a letdown after a title loss," said the fourth member, an elderly woman. "It's natural. With the NWA title, it just seems to last a little longer, that's all. I don't think anyone in this room could offer a logical explanation for it. It's just one of those bizarre things.

"Rhodes isn't suffering a letdown per se. He's in emotional turmoil."

All these insights and opinions skirted the central topic. Has Dusty Rhodes lost it? Will he disappear, another sacrifice to oblivion?

"Definitely not," said the elderly



Blood oozes into Rhodes' closed right eye as Lewin continues his assault.

woman, momentarily putting down her knitting. "Rhodes won it once and he'll do it again."

"All Rhodes needs is to get his energies back on the right path," said the middle-aged man. "The talent and intensity is still there."

"Once Rhodes convincingly beats Funk, he'll be okay and ready to mount another challenge to Race," said the heavy-set man.

"Champions don't lose it," said the grey-haired man. "Otherwise, they're not champions." □

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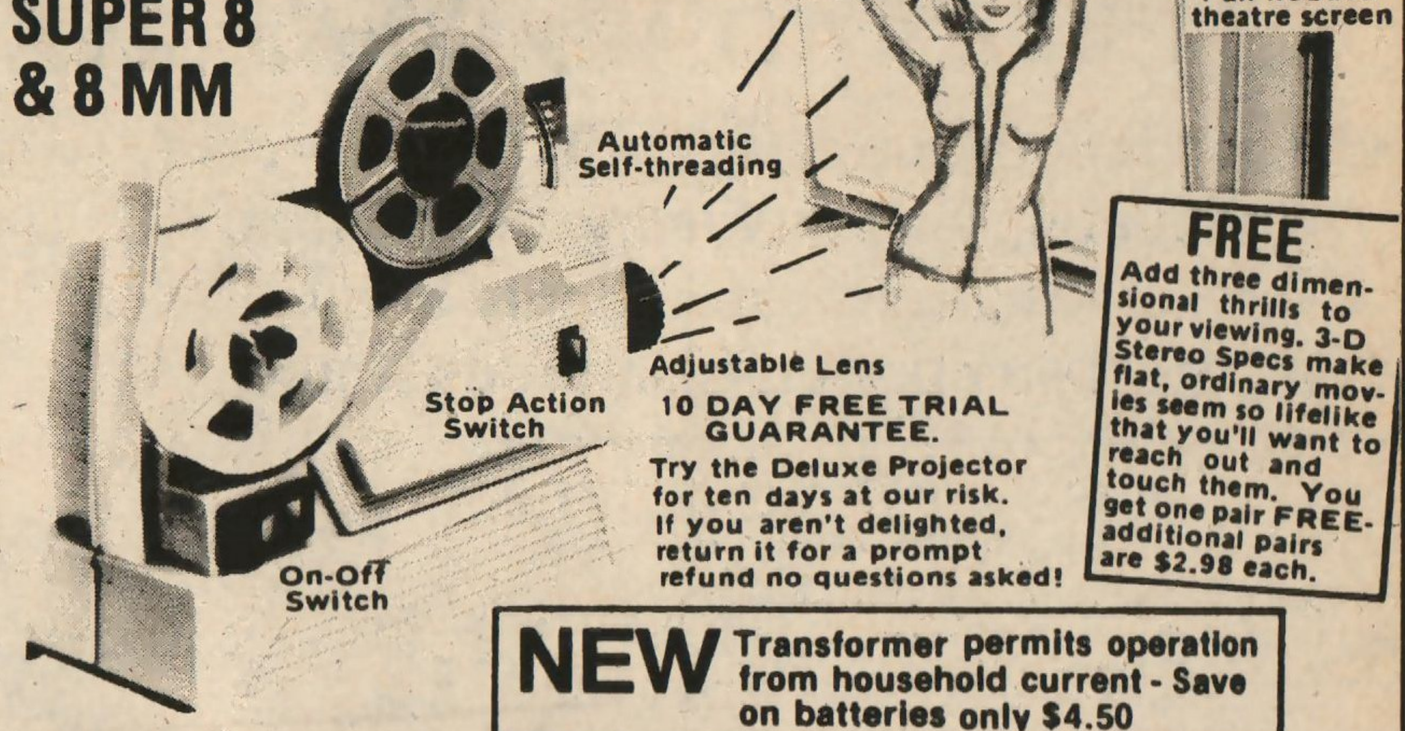

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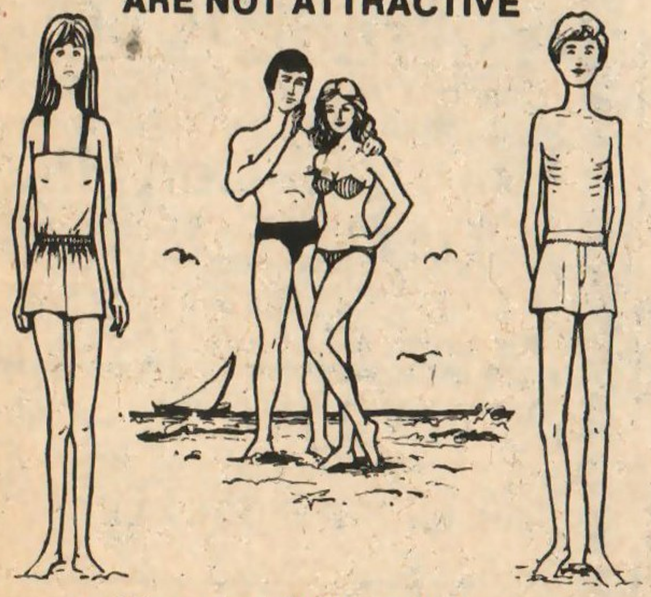

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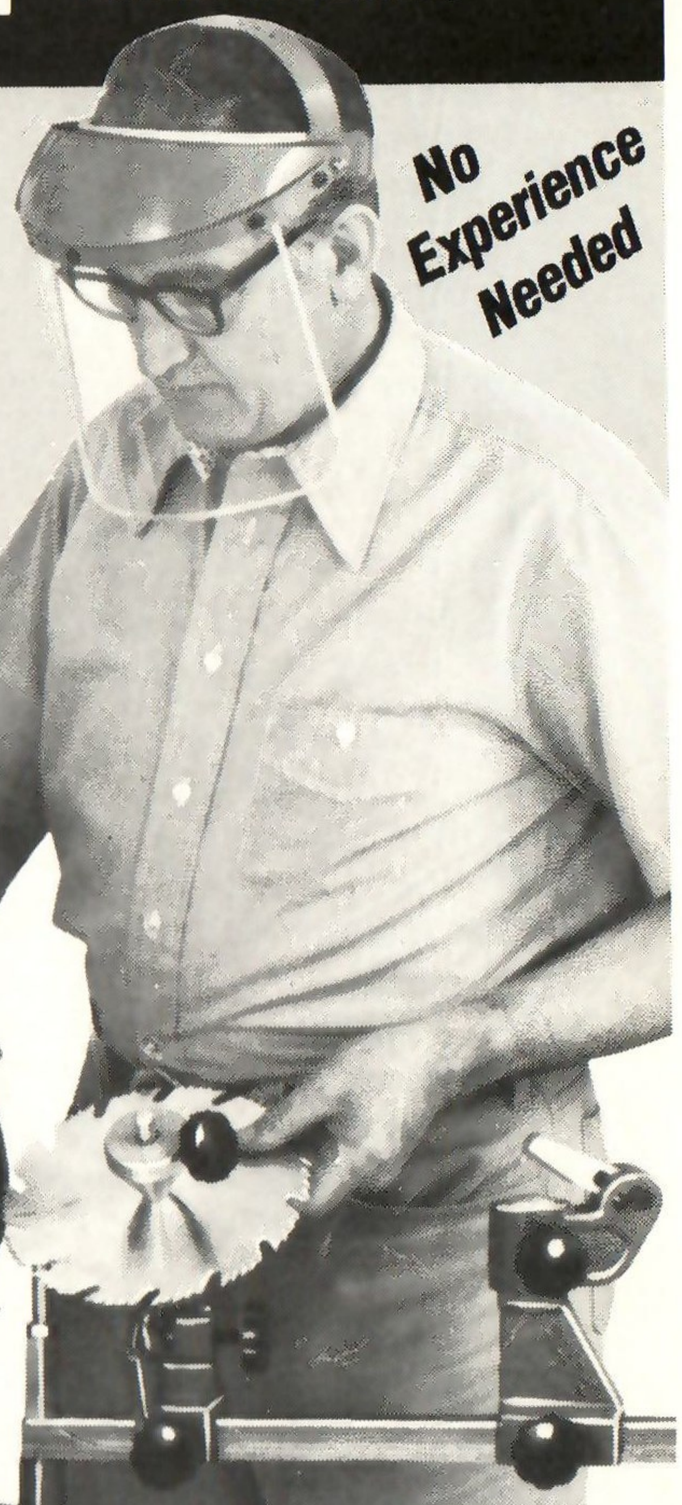

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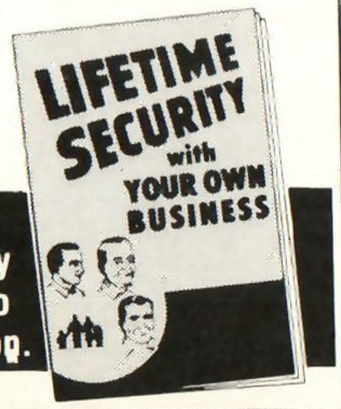

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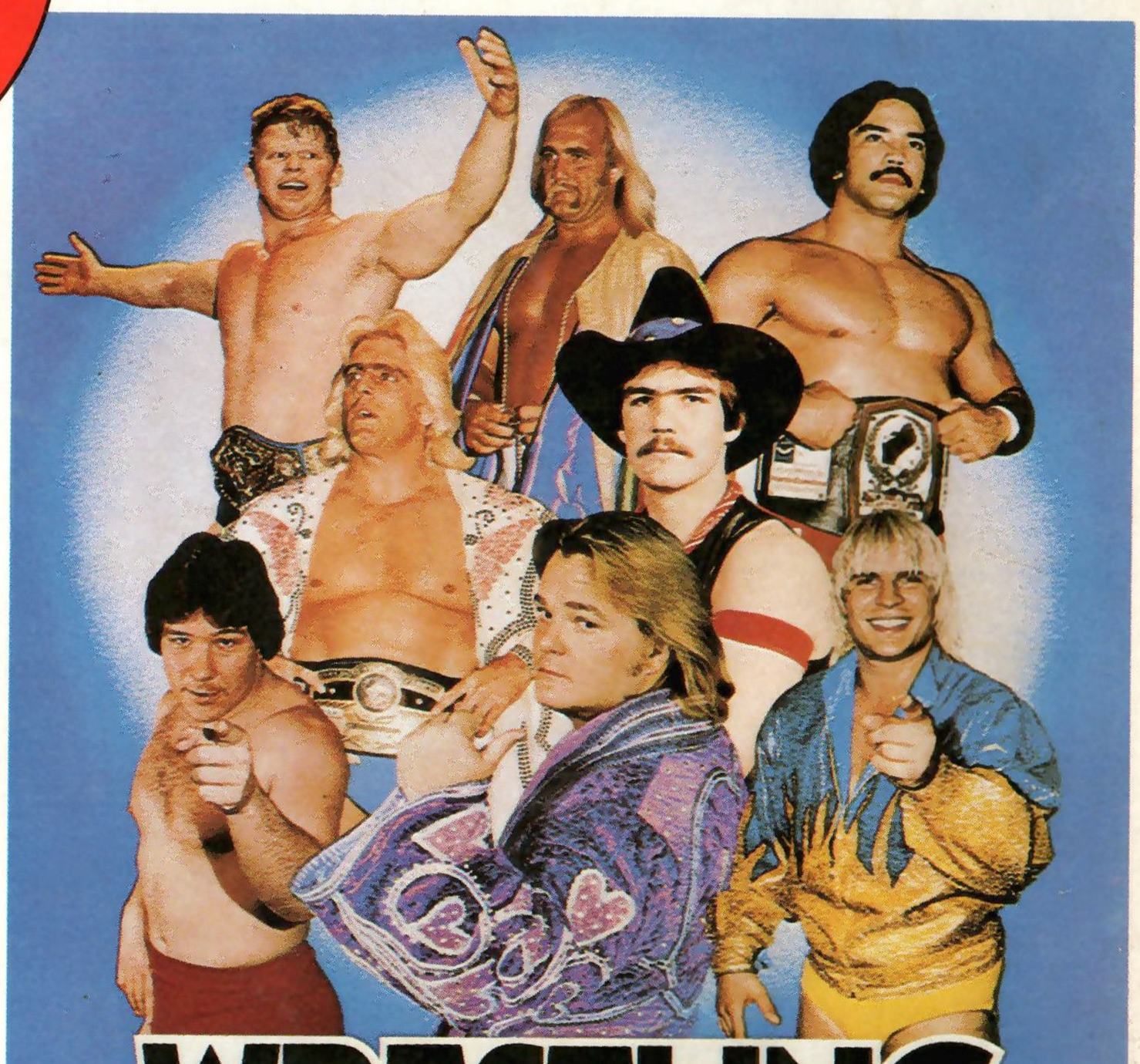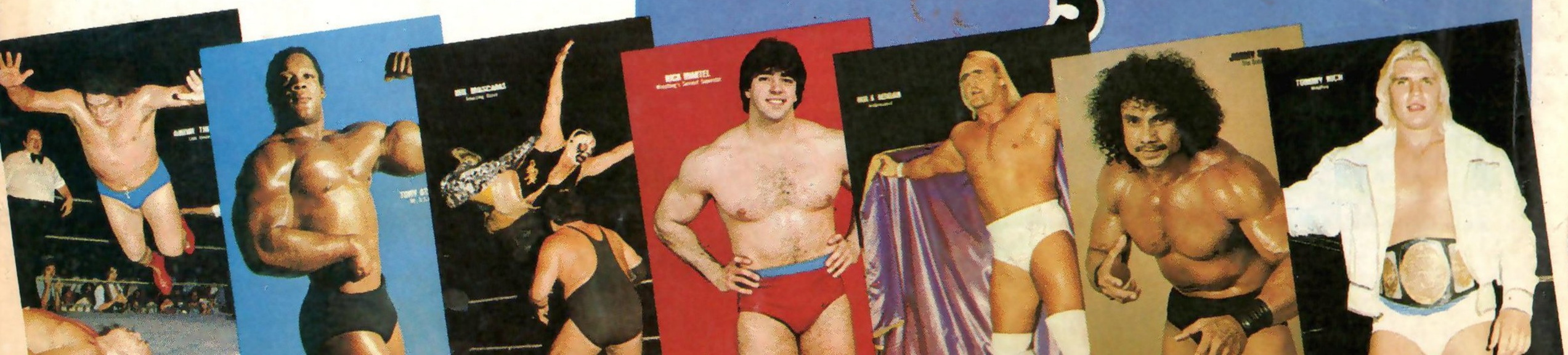
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